

The Natchez Literary Celebration

presents

JERRY CLOWER

America's top humorist and storyteller



IN NATCHEZ!

7 P.M., SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1993

NATCHEZ CITY AUDITORIUM

Tickets \$7.50 from Natchez Box Office
(601) 445-0353 or 1-800-862-3259
or at the door

1993 part 2
page 1

Joni Afternoon



THE NACHEZ
LITERARY
CELEBRATION
NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI
June 2-6, 1993
presented by
The Three R's

Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park and Natchez Trace Parkway

Ticket Reservation Form

Please indicate the events and number of tickets you desire:

	Number of Tickets	Total Cost
I. LECTURES AND GENERAL ADMISSION EVENTS		
Package includes events A, B, C, D	_____	\$52.00
Or _____		
Select specific events below:		
A. June 2 lectures and ETV preview	_____	\$55.00
B. June 3 lectures and movie	_____	\$55.00
C. June 4 lectures and movie	_____	\$55.00
D. June 5 lectures, book signing, movie	_____	\$55.00
* * *		
II. RECEPTIONS, CONCERT, TOUR, PRESENTATIONS		
Package includes events E, F, G, H, I, J	_____	\$54.00
Or _____		
Select specific events below:		
E. June 2 reception	_____	\$55.00
F. June 3 reception	_____	\$55.00
G. June 4 concert	_____	\$55.00
H. June 5 four-hour tour	_____	\$55.00
I. June 5 Percussion/Classical presentations	_____	\$57.50
J. June 5 reception	_____	\$52.50
* * *		
III. LIMITED ADMISSION EVENTS		
Package includes events K, L, M, N	_____	\$58.00
Or _____		
Select specific events below:		
K. June 2 dinner	_____	\$55.00
L. June 3 luncheon	_____	\$53.00
M. June 4 luncheon	_____	\$53.00
N. June 6 writing workshops/luncheon	_____	\$55.00
* * *		
TOTAL PAYMENT DUE \$ _____		
* * *		
Please check payment method:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal check (Make payable to NACHEZ BOX OFFICE.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa (For credit card purchases, complete form below.)		

Credit card account number	_____	
Expiration date	_____	
_____	Today's date	

Authorized signature		
(Please see both sides of this form.)		

The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River

Natchez, Mississippi
June 2-6, 1993

The fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration features lectures, tours, entertainments, concerts, meals, and special events saluting the influence of Ol' Man River on the literature, history, and culture of Natchez and the Lower Mississippi River Valley.

The event is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park and the Natchez Trace Parkway. Lectures are financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council. The Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra concert is supported in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission.

* * *

CO-CHAIRMAN
Becky Jankin Nevill
Carolyn Vance Smith
Faculty Members, Copiah-Lincoln
Community College - Natchez Campus
and
Gerald Gausser
Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services
Natchez National Historical Park

* * *

DIRECTOR OF PROCEEDINGS
The Honorable William F. Winter
President, Board of Trustees
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Jackson, Mississippi



Brochure Design by William M. Smith Jr.
Cover Design by Don Goss

1993 part 2
page 2

The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River

Presentations are in the Natchez Municipal Auditorium, 200 Jefferson Street, unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, June 2, 1993

- 1:00 p.m.** Welcome and Introductions
Dr. Billy B. Thames, President
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
- 1:15 p.m.** "The Heritage of the Mississippi River"
Mr. John Hoots
Leader, Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Project
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Denver Service Center
Denver, Colorado
- 2:15 p.m.** Refreshments
- 2:45 p.m.** "Spaniards, Frenchmen, and Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1518-1763"
Dr. William S. Coker
Professor of History Emeritus
University of West Florida
Pensacola, Florida
- 5:00 p.m.** "Return to the River"
Premiere of a Mississippi Educational Television Documentary with Comments by
Mr. A. I. Jager, Director
Mississippi Educational Television
Jackson, Mississippi
- 6:45 p.m.** Gala Reception Honoring ETV Dignitaries at Historic Stanton Hall (\$5 Ticket Needed)
- 8:00 p.m.** Dinner, Carriage House Restaurant at Stanton Hall with Concert by the Holy Family Catholic Church Gospel Choir (\$15 Ticket Needed)

Thursday, June 3, 1993

- 8:30 a.m.** "Language Without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy, and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi"
Dr. Charles Lowery
Chairman, Department of History
Mississippi State University
Starkville, Mississippi
- 9:30 a.m.** Refreshments
- 10:00 a.m.** "Aaron Burr and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River"
Dr. Robert V. Remini
Professor of History and
Research Professor of Humanities
University of Illinois
Chicago, Illinois

- 11:15 a.m.** "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez"
Dr. David G. Searing, Professor of History
The University of Mississippi
Oxford, Mississippi
- 12:30 p.m.** Luncheon, The Natchezicola Hotel
with Musical Selections by "The Black Swan"
(\$10 Ticket Needed)
- 2:00 p.m.** "The Mississippi River and the Civil War"
Mr. Terrence Wineschke, Winston
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Vicksburg National Military Park
Vicksburg, Mississippi
- 3:00 p.m.** Refreshments
- 3:15 p.m.** "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"
A Movie Based on the Novel by Mark Twain
With Discussion Led by
Dr. Charles G. Vahlkamp
Professor of American Film Studies
Centre College
Danville, Kentucky
- 6:30-8:00 p.m.** Reception, the Ramada Hilltop Inn
Overlooking the Mississippi River
Honoring Outstanding Humanities Scholars from
Mississippi's Public Two-Year Colleges
With Music by the River Road Revue
(\$5 Ticket Needed)

Friday, June 4, 1993

- 8:30 a.m.** "The Mississippi River and Sacambouts: Mud, Water, Boats, and Stram"
Dr. Thomas H. Gandy, Author and Historian
Natchez, Mississippi
- 9:30 a.m.** Refreshments
- 10:00 a.m.** "Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices"
Dr. Shelley Fisher Hixson, Visiting Fellow
Cambridge University
Cambridge, England
- 11:00 a.m.** "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation"
Mr. Hillary Jacques Knight III
Associate Professor of English
Tougaloo College
Tougaloo, Mississippi
- 12:15 p.m.** Victorian Luncheon, Historic Magnolia Hall
(\$30 Ticket Needed)
- 2:00 p.m.** "The Rivers in My Life"
Mr. Willie Morris, Author
Jackson, Mississippi

- 3:00 p.m.** Popcorn and Soft Drinks
- 3:15 p.m.** "Good Ol' Boy," A Movie Filmed in Natchez
Based on Mr. Willie Morris' Book
with Discussion Led by Dr. Vahlkamp
- 7:00-8:00 p.m.** "The Music of the Mississippi"
A Concert of River-Inspired Selections by the
Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra
(\$5 Ticket Needed)

Saturday, June 5, 1993

- 8:30 a.m.** "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart"
Dr. Peggy W. Presshaw, Professor of English
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- 9:15 a.m.** "Port Claiborne: A Reading with Commentary"
Ms. Elizabeth Spencer, Writer-in-Residence
The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- 10:00 a.m.** Booksigning Party Honoring All Speakers
- 10:45 a.m.** "Of Men and Rivers"
Mr. Ernest Gaines, Writer-in-Residence
The University of Southwestern Louisiana
Lafayette, Louisiana
- 1:00 p.m.** "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman"
A Movie Based on the Novel by Ms. Ernest Gaines
with Discussion Led by Dr. Vahlkamp
- 4:00-6:00 p.m.** Tour of Historic Houses near the River:
Rosalie, The Parsonage, The William Johnson
House, and Evans-Bonhairs, with Refreshments
(\$15 Ticket Needed)
- 7:00 p.m.** "Storytelling Along the River Road"
Dr. William Ferris, Director
The Center for the Study of Southern Culture
The University of Mississippi, Oxford
and
Mr. Jerry Clower, Humorist and Author
Liberty, Mississippi
(\$1.50 Ticket Needed)
- 8:15 p.m.** "Open House on the River Road"
Reception at the Historic Mansion Choctaw
Honoring All Speakers
(\$2.50 Ticket Needed)

Sunday, June 6, 1993

- 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.** Writing Workshops with Luncheon,
Sponsored by Mississippi Writers Association,
The Best Western River Park Hotel

See Front page for Details

1993 part 2
page 3

THE NATCHEZ
LITERARY
CELEBRATION
NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

JUNE 2-6, 1993
presents

The Three R's:



Lectures and Presentations

- Mr. John Hoesterey, Historian, National Park Service, Denver: *The Heritage of the Mississippi River*
- Dr. William S. Coker, Historian, University of West Florida: *Spaniards, Frenchmen, and Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1519-1763*
- Dr. Charles Lowery, Historian, Mississippi State University: *Language Without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy, and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi*
- Dr. Robert V. Remini, Historian, University of Illinois, Chicago: *Aaron Burr and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River*
- Dr. David G. Sansing, Historian, University of Mississippi: *From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez*
- Dr. Thomas H. Gandy, Historian, Natchez, Mississippi: *The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mud, Water, Boats, and Steam*
- Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Scholar, Cambridge University, Cambridge, England: *Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices*
- Mr. Hillery Jacque Knight III, Poet, Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, Mississippi: *The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation*
- Mr. Willie Morris, Author, Jackson, Mississippi: *The Rivers in My Life*
- Dr. Peggy W. Preshaw, Scholar, Louisiana State University: *Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart*
- Ms. Elizabeth Spencer, Author, University of North Carolina: *Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart*

- Mr. Terrence Winschel, Historian, National Park Service, Vicksburg, Mississippi: *The Mississippi River and the Civil War*
- Dr. Charles G. Vahlkamp, Film Expert, Centre College, Danville, Kentucky: *Discussions of Three Films: "Huck Finn," "Good Old Boy," and "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman"*

Caroline: *Fort Camboire: A Reading with Commentary*

- Mr. Ernest Gaines, Author, University of Southwestern Louisiana: *Of Men and Rivers*
- Dr. William Ferris, Scholar, University of Mississippi: *Storytelling Along the River Road*
- Mr. Jerry Clower, Humorist and Author, Liberty, Mississippi: *Stories from Home*



Other Celebration Events

Tours of historic homes and sites near the river

Premiere of Mississippi ETV's *Return to the River*

Film festival: *Huck Finn*, *Good Old Boy*, and *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*

Pops concert by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra

Re-enactment of the Civil War Union occupation of Natchez

Writing workshops and booksigning

Exhibits, entertainments, meals, and parties

\$110 for full package • \$20 for lectures only • Other events from \$5

For tickets, call Natchez Box Office 1-800-862-3259 or (601) 445-0353

• • •

Presented by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service's
Natchez National Historical Park and Natchez Trace Parkway

Program partially funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council
and the Mississippi Arts Commission

1993 part 2
page 5

Two grants will benefit literary fest

Annual Natchez event will draw lecturers in June, organizer says

Special to The Democrat

Grants from two Mississippi agencies have been announced to help fund the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, said celebration co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez campus.

"We are delighted to learn that the 1993 conference has been awarded these two grants," she said.

"This public money will help assure us of once again being able to present a first-class event that is very affordable."

The fourth annual Literary Celebration is set for June 2-6, with the theme "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin' and the River." The conference is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln and the Natchez National Historical Park.

One of the recently announced grants, for \$19,042, is from the Mississippi Humanities Council through the National Endowment for the Humanities. The other grant is for \$2,000 from the Mississippi Arts Commission.

"The Humanities Council grant was the largest grant awarded by the council this fall," said Dr. Cora Norman, director of the council. "It will help fund the cost of the celebration's lecturers, printed materials and promotion."

The Arts Commission grant will help fund a concert of river-related music by the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra. This concert is set for June 4 at the Natchez City Auditorium.

The festival will feature a wide slate of speakers who are experts on a variety of subjects.

"Tickets will be available beginning this month," Smith said. "Lectures are \$20 for four days or \$5 per day, with a full package for lectures, meals, tours and entertainments costing \$95. Natchez Box Office will be handling all tickets this year."

1993 part 2
page 6



press by Co. 10
MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT: Attending Monday's announcement ceremony were, from left, D Billy Thames, Dr. Cora Norman, Justice Court Judge Mary Lee Toles, Durr Walker, Dr. Howell Garne Stuart Johnson and Jim Barnett. *MDA H*
2NNHP *q. W. Wilson Giddens*

Humanities council grant boosts festival

The 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration received a check for \$19,042 from the Mississippi Humanities Council on Monday.

At a press conference to announce details of the June 2-6 event, the council's executive director Dr. Cora Norman presented the check to celebration sponsors, which include Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service.

Norman said the council is glad to support the event

again because the literary celebration, now in its four year, has been a model for bringing scholars together with those who are interested in literature.

"Scholars from around the country are now clamoring to get an invitation to the event," Norman said adding that the grant to the celebration is the largest far from the council's 1993 funds.

Co-Lin president Dr. Billy B. Thames is chairman the humanities council.

The Miss-Lou

River

Continued from Page 1A

been inspired by it," said Smith, an English instructor at the college's Natchez campus.

"We'll have speakers all the way from the world's foremost authority on Mark Twain, Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin of Cambridge University, to homespun Jerry Clower, who practices the time-honored oral tradition of literature," Smith said.

Famous writers of Southern literature will include Elizabeth Spencer and Willie Morris, both of national reputation. Enhancing the Spencer program, "Port Claiborne and the River," will be a program by a Spencer scholar, Peggy Prensshaw of Louisiana State University, who will present, "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart."

Rounding out a group of 16 lecturers during the five-day event will be tours and other entertainments, Smith said, including a concert of river tunes by the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra.

"We're trying to pull the river in as different ways," Smith said. "One thing we're going to do is an art contest for students and adults." The multi-cultural event has many angles, she said. "One of the

"The river has been a fascination for poets, and it is only natural so many creative people have been inspired by it."

— Carolyn Vance Smith

exciting events will be the premiere of Mississippi ETV's "Return to the River" documentary," she said. The film was made during a 1991 trip on the steamboat Delta Queen that brought together literary figures such as Shelby Foote and the late Alex Haley, and other Southern artists such as musician B.B. King.

Other topics on the program for the literary celebration include a study of the Aaron Burr conspiracy, tall tales of the river, the era of steam travel on the river, the Civil War, and the story of Natchez's talented "black swan."

A grant of \$19,042 from the Mississippi Humanities Council will help with funding the event, along with \$2,000 from the Mississippi Arts Commission for the appearance of the symphony.

Tickets and more information are available by writing Natchez Box Office, P.O. Box 1264, Natchez, Miss. 39121. Information is available by telephone at 601-445-0353 or 1-800-862-3259.



The Natchez Democrat/Barbara Gerard Kent

MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT: Attending Monday's announcement ceremony were, from left, Dr. Billy Thames, Dr. Cora Norman, Justice Court Judge Mary Lee Toles, Durr Walker, Dr. Howell Garmon Stuart Johnson and Jim Barnett. *M.D.A.H.*

Humanities council grant boosts festival

The 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration received a check for \$19,042 from the Mississippi Humanities Council on Monday.

At a press conference to announce details of the June 2-6 event, the council's executive director Dr. Cora Norman presented the check to celebration sponsors, which include Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service.

Norman said the council is glad to support the event

again because the literary celebration, now in its fourth year, has been a model for bringing scholars together with those who are interested in literature.

"Scholars from around the country are now clamoring to get an invitation to the event," Norman said, adding that the grant to the celebration is the largest far from the council's 1993 funds.

Co-Lin president Dr. Billy B. Thames is chairman of the humanities council.

1993 part 2
page 8

Tuesday, January 26, 1993

FRONT PAGE
**'93 literary
fest to salute
the river**

■ More on the festival, 3A
By JOAN GANDY
The Natchez Democrat

A salute to Mississippi River culture and lore will draw dozens of river scholars and tale-tellers to Natchez in June for the 1993 Literary Celebration.

"Readin', Ritin', and the River," June 2-6, will be the fourth annual event of its kind sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service.

Describing it as an "educational extravaganza," organizer Carolyn Vance Smith of Co-Lin said on Monday the diversity of presentations, tours and entertainments provide something for every river aficionado's taste.

"The river has been a fascination for eons, and it is only natural so many creative people have

See RIVER, Page 3A

River

Continued from Page 1A

been inspired by it," said Smith, an English instructor at the college's Natchez campus.

"We'll have speakers all the way from the world's foremost authority on Mark Twain, Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin of Cambridge University, to homespun Jerry Clower, who practices the time-honored oral tradition of literature," Smith said.

Famous writers of Southern literature will include Elizabeth Spencer and Willie Morris, both of national reputation. Enhancing the Spencer program, "Port Claiborne and the River," will be a program by a Spencer scholar, Peggy Preshaw of Louisiana State University, who will present, "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart."

Rounding out a group of 16 lecturers during the five-day event will be tours and other entertainments, Smith said, including a concert of river tunes by the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra.

"We're trying to pull the river in different ways," Smith said. "One thing we're going to do is an art contest for students and adults."

The multi-cultural event has many angles, she said. "One of the

"The river has been a fascination for eons, and it is only natural so many creative people have been inspired by it."

— Carolyn Vance Smith

exciting events will be the premiere of Mississippi ETV's 'Return to the River' documentary," she said. The film was made during a 1991 trip on the steamboat Delta Queen that brought together literary figures such as Shelby Foote and the late Alex Haley, and other Southern artists such as musician B.B. King.

Other topics on the program for the literary celebration include a study of the Aaron Burr conspiracy, tall tales of the river, the era of steam travel on the river, the Civil War, and the story of Natchez's talented "black swan."

A grant of \$19,042 from the Mississippi Humanities Council will help with funding the event, along with \$2,000 from the Mississippi Arts Commission for the appearance of the symphony.

Tickets and more information are available by writing Natchez Box Office, P.O. Box 1264, Natchez, Miss. 39121. Information is available by telephone at 601-445-0353 or 1-800-862-3259.

The Natchez Democrat

Annual literary celebration will salute Mississippi River

The fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration, June 2-6, will present Jerry Clower on stage as a special event at 7 p.m. on June 3 at the City Auditorium.

In addition, the celebration will include lectures, tours, entertainments, concerts, meals and special events saluting the Mississippi River and its influence on literature, history and culture of Natchez and the Lower Mississippi River Valley.

The event, titled "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River," is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the Natchez National Historical Park and Natchez Trace Parkway.

Free events include:

■ "Faces and Phases of the River," a guided walking tour along the Natchez bluff by national park rangers, June 2-4.

■ "The Mighty Mississippi," an exhibit of winning entries in a regional art contest at Judge George W. Armstrong Library, June 2-6.

■ "Steamboating in Style," a photograph exhibit at Historic Jefferson College by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, June 2-6.

■ "The Natchez Trace," an exhibit at the City Auditorium by the Natchez Trace Parkway, June 2-6.

■ "The Historic Natchez Collection," an exhibit of reproduction furniture and accessories at

the Historic Natchez Foundation on South Commerce Street, June 2-6.

■ "Afro-American Life in Natchez," an exhibit at the Natchez Afro-American Museum by the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture, June 3.

■ Living history re-enactment of the Union Army's occupation of Natchez, 1863-65, on the grounds of Melrose, June 2-6.

Lectures begin on June 2 and continue through June 5 at the City Auditorium. All oral presentations except for the June 5 presentation at 7 p.m. are open on a space-available basis for a registration fee of \$5 a day or \$20 for all four days. Lectures are financially

assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Tickets for all events are available at Natchez Box Office, P.O. Box 1264 in Natchez. The telephone number at Natchez Box Office is 445-0353.

Lectures are as follows:

■ "The Heritage of the Mississippi River," by John Homster, leader of the Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Project of the U.S. Department of the Interior, June 2, 1:15 p.m.

■ "Spaniards, Frenchmen and the Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1519-1763," by Dr. William S. Coker, professor of history emeritus at the University of West

Florida in Pensacola, June 2, 2:45 p.m.

■ "Language without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi," by Dr. Charles Lowery, chairman of the department of history at Mississippi State University, June 3, 8:30 a.m.

■ "Aaron Burr and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River," by Dr. Robert V. Remini, professor of history at the University of Illinois in Chicago, June 3, 10 a.m.

■ "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez," by Dr. David G. Sansing, professor of history at the University of Mississippi in

See RIVER, Page 5C

More than 385 Miss-Lou names and faces are featured in today's paper.

1993 part 2
page 10

River

Continued from Page 1C
Oxford, June 3, 11:15 a.m.

■ "The Mississippi River and the Civil War," by Terrence Winchell, historian with the Vicksburg National Military Park, June 3, 2 p.m.

■ "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," the movie, with discussion led by Dr. Charles G. Vahlkamp, professor of American Film Studies at Centre College in Danville, Ky., June 3, 3:15 p.m.

■ "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mud, Water, Boats and Steam," by Dr. Thomas H. Gandy, author and historian of Natchez, June 4, 8:30 a.m.

■ "Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices," by Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, visiting fellow at Cambridge University in Cambridge, England, June 4, 10 a.m.

■ "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation," by Hillary Jacque Knight III, associate professor of English at Tougaloo College, June 4, 11 a.m.

■ "The Rivers in My Life," by Willie Morris, Mississippi author, June 4, 2 p.m.

■ "Good Ol' Boy," a movie based on a Willie Morris book, with a discussion led by Dr. Vahlkamp, June 4, 3:15 p.m.

■ "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart," by Dr. Peggy W. Frenchow, professor of English

at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, June 5, 8:30 a.m.

■ "Port Claiborne: A Reading with Commentary," by Elizabeth Spencer, writer-in-residence at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, June 5, 9:15 a.m.

■ "Of Men and Rivers," by Ernest Gaines, writer-in-residence at University of Southwestern Louisiana at Lafayette, June 5, 10:45 a.m.

Other ticketed events, which require admission above the general admission to the lectures:

■ "Storytelling Along the River Road," by Dr. William Ferris of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Southern Mississippi and humorist Jerry Clover of Liberty on June 5 at 7

Library collection

New and donated additions to the Judge George W. Armstrong Library collection includes:

Adult fiction

"Cat Who Went Into the Closet" by Lilian Jackson Braun;
"Garden Club" by Mariel Resnik Jackson;
"Holy Thief" by Ellis Peters;
"I'll Be Seeing You" by Mary Higgins Clark;
"Now You See Him" by Anne Stuart;

"Poison Flowers" by Natasha Cooper;
"Reckless" by Amanda Quick;
"Ten Thousand" by H.W. Coyle.

Adult nonfiction

"Birthday Cake Book" by Sylvia Thompson;
"Book of U.S. Postal Exams" by Veltinear B. Bautista;
"Caregivers' Roller Coaster" by Billie Jackson;
"Cars" by M. Keebs;
"Cutoff and the Delta" by Richard Schreid;

"Complete Medicinal Herbs" by Penelope Ody;
"Computers" by Linda Williams;
"Conception, Pregnancy and Birth" by Miriam Stoppard;
"Fashion" by Kathleen Beckett;
"Fitness" by Maure R. Cutless;
"Gail Brown's All-New Instant

Interiors" by Gail Brown;
"Health Care" by Susan Gordon;
"History of Men's Costume" by Marion Sichel;
"History of Women's Costume" by Marion Sichel;
"Medical and Spiritual Guide to Living with Cancer" by W.A. Fintel;
"Music" by Ted Greenwald;
"Nurses: The Human Touch" by Michael Brown;

"Why Doesn't My Funny Bone Make Me Laugh" by Alan P. Xenakis;

Adult reference

"Critical Essays of Walker Percy" by J. Donald Crowley;
"Handbook of Chemistry and Physics";

"Peterson First Guide to Caterpillars" by Amy Bartlett Wright;
"Peterson First Guide to Trees," by George A. Petrides;
"Tapping the Government Grapevine" by Judith S. Robinson;

Children's books

"Animal Science" by Anita Ganeri;
"Attaboy, Sam!" by Lois Lowry;
"Body Science" by Anita Ganeri;
"Disappearing Friend Mystery" by Gertrude C. Warner;
"Earthwise at School" by Linda Lowery;
"Hurricanes" by Arlene Erbach.

1993 part 2
page 11

College Notes

Programs, and Ideas From Mississippi's Public Community & Junior College System

January 31, 1993

For low-cost tickets, call Natchez
Box Office (601) 445-0353 or
1-800-862-3259.
*COPIAH-LINCOLN COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

A Southern Phenomenon: The Natchez Literary Celebration

Reading isn't just alive. It's
kicking! Nothing proves this more
than the annual Natchez Literary
Celebration, set for June 2-5,
1993. Hundreds are expected for
this international conference,
sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln
Community College and the
National Park Service.

With the irresistible theme,
"The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin',
and the River," the conference
will feature lectures, concerts,
tours, a Civil War re-enactment,
films, writing workshops, ETV's
"Return to the River" and more.

FOCUS on the Humanities

A Publication of the Mississippi Humanities Council

Summer 1993

6/2-6/6--Natchez. Natchez Literary
Celebration: "The Three Rs: Readin',
'Ritin', and the River." Carolyn Smith,
442-9111

1993 part 2
page 12

ARTS

■ **GATHERING AT THE RIVER:** A salute to the Mississippi River will bring scholars and folklorists to **Natchez, Miss.**, in early June for the 1993 Literary Celebration, titled "Readin', Ritin' and the River." Speakers include Mark Twain scholar Shelley Fisher Fishkin, comic Jerry Clower and writers Elizabeth Spencer and Willie Morris. A TV documentary, "Return to the River," in which writers and artists talk about the river as they tour it on a steamboat, will be unveiled. . . . Alex Haley's "Roots" manuscripts go on display today at the University of Tennessee in **Knoxville** (See article, Page D3).



Jerry Clower

atlanta newspaper 3-1-93

1993 part 2
page 13

March 30, 1993

To: Don Thompson and Gerry Gaumer

From: Carolyn Vance Smith

Re: Meeting concerning 1993 NLC plans

Items to be discussed

1. Can Don be co-chairman of NLC with Gerry, Becky Nevill, and Carolyn? *3 co-ch. on brochure*
2. Can Don introduce lecturer Terrence Winschel at 2 p.m., Thursday, June 3? *yes -*
3. Housing for Don, Dale Smith, Terrence Winschel, and John Hosterery - where, how many nights each, when will they arrive, will wives be coming, also?
4. Walking tours on Natchez Bluff Wed., Thurs., Fri., June 2-4
 - * when will they take place for regular NLC participants?
 - * length of time per tour
 - * number of people per group
 - * sign-up board: where will it be placed; who will develop and display it -
 - * can Elderhostel group of 180 people be toured late afternoon and early evening on Tues., June 1, in groups at varying times
 - * who will be guides; do you need volunteers or trained Natchez guides
5. Re-enactment June 5-6
 - * information and photos for publicity needed
 - * time of re-enactments needed
 - * Sat. schedule for NLC is so busy that many participants may attend on Sun., leaving Sat. to be the day for those to attend who are not attending lectures or going on house tour
 - * will Melrose be open during the Sat.-Sun. re-enactments; if so, will it be free
 - * public transportation to and from town?
6. any financial aid for Dr. Inglis and his workshops? — *can't -*
7. pix of Don and Gerry needed for booklet ASAP
8. physical help needed June 2-5 at auditorium — *hauling greenery - yes call Perry*
9. parking problem downtown; any ideas on shuttle service from hotels?
10. *secretarial help, postage - may be avail - will call back - stuffing envelopes, pockets - yes*

Your name _____

Phone _____

Please complete this form and return it to Carolyn Vance Smith via the Admissions Office at the Washington Site BY FRIDAY, APRIL 16. Thanks!

Checked below are areas in which I am interested in assisting at the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, June 2-5. (This fourth annual event will take place at the Natchez Municipal Auditorium on Jefferson Street, NOT at the Eola Hotel, since we've outgrown the Eola ballroom.) The NLC is co-sponsored by Co-Lin, the Natchez National Historical Park, and Natchez Trace Parkway.

Committee chairmen will receive complimentary passes to all lectures.

- ☐ Working in the custom bookshop at the auditorium
- ☐ Working at the registration desk at the auditorium
- ☐ Working as host/hostess at the lecture hall at the auditorium (please indicate days available)
- ☐ Assisting with coffee break parties and other parties
- ☐ Serving as personal liaison with lecturers (assisting with travel needs, etc.)
- ☐ Filming and taping lectures and special events
- ☐ Working on publicity committee
- ☐ Working on printed materials (program booklet, name tags, etc.)
- ☐ Letter-writing, filing, assisting with mailouts, etc.
- ☐ Fundraising to help pay for certain events
- ☐ Working with autograph party
- ☐ Assisting with decorations and arrangements at auditorium
- ☐ Assisting with floral arrangements at Carriage House and other NLC sites away from the auditorium
- ☐ Assisting with local travel arrangements (vans for speakers, etc.)
- ☐ Assisting with last-minute packet-stuffing, etc.
- ☐ Assisting with arrangements at Municipal Auditorium (p.a. system, seating, orchestra's needs, etc.)
- ☐ Assisting with tour of Broadway-area houses June 5
- ☐ Assisting with refreshments and party at the mansion Choctaw June 5

1993 part 2
page 15

NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

Carolyn Vance Smith has spoken on the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration to various groups: Mississippians for Educational Broadcasting in Jackson, Southeast Conference of Teachers of English in the Two-Year College in Chattanooga, Mississippi Historical Society in Pascagoula, English Club at Co-Lin Wesson, Adams County Board of Supervisors, and the Natchez Writers Club.

The Natchez Literary Celebration has received numerous cash gifts. Gifts received in mid-March were \$250 from South Central Bell and \$100 from Bluff City Distributors.

Nearly 200 participants in the NLC will be international Elderhostelers, hailing from across the United States and Canada.

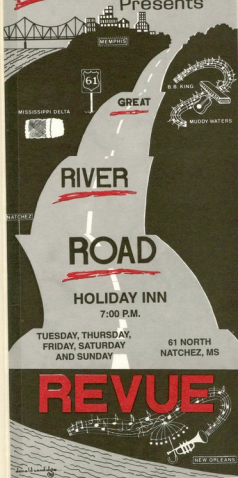
"The Mighty Mississippi," theme of an art contest which is part of the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, has been announced by contest chairman Prudence McGehee. Mrs. McGehee, art instructor at Co-Lin Natchez, will be assisted by representatives of the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture, the Natchez Art Association and the Judge George W. Armstrong Library. Contestants may come from preschool through grade 12 in Miss-Lou schools. Cash awards will be presented to winners. Deadline to enter is May 1. Details and entry forms are available from the chairman or from NLC co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith.

BOARD REPORT April 1, 1993

1993 part 2
page 16

Natchez RECORDS

Presents



1993 part 2
page 17

Natchez Records

presents

The Great River Road Revue

...A musical tribute to American Popular Music and to the land that gave it birth.

Legendary Highway 61, "The Great River Road", travels the length of Mississippi — From Memphis - Mecca for Mississippi Musicians — through the flat, fertile fields of the Mississippi Delta "Cradle of the Blues" — past the historic river cities Vicksburg and Natchez, where the haunting strains of the great plantation spirituals still linger in the soft Southern air.

The Road reaches journey's end in New Orleans, home of Dixieland Jazz.

Live Performances Showcasing Natchez Records' Artists

Spring Pilgrimage Season

Mon. Tues. Thur. Fri. Sat. Sun.
through April 12th

Holiday Inn - Highway 61 N
Natchez, Mississippi

CURTAIN 7:00 P.M.

ADMISSION \$8.00

Tickets available at
Natchez Pilgrimage Tour Headquarters
Canal at State Streets - Natchez

"THE BLACK SWAN" IN CONCERT

FEATURING DR. ELLISTINE P. HOLLY

PROGRAM OF MUSIC

"B Sleeping Now Fair Maid of Love" Francis (Frank) Johnson
(1792-1844)

"Make Me No Gaudy Chapter" Donizetti Calcott
(1797-1848)

"Every Doubt and Danger Over" William Henry Fry
from *Leonora* (1813-1894)

"Home! Sweet Home!" Henry R. Bishop
from *The Maid of Milan* (1786-1855)



The Natchez Literary Celebration

presents a continuation of

FROM THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TO THE RIVER TRAMMEE

THE BLACK SWAN OF NATCHEZ

an after-luncheon mini-concert

1:00 p.m., Thursday, June 3, 1993

The Natchez Eola Hotel

featuring

Dr. Ellistine P. Holly, Soprano

Associate Professor of Music
Jackson State University
Jackson, Mississippi
with

Ms. Sandra Polanski, Pianist

Chairman, Music Department
Academic and Performing Arts Complex
Jackson, Mississippi

Presiding

The Honorable William F. Winter
President, Board of Trustees
Mississippi Department of Archives
and History, Jackson

Remarks

Dr. David G. Sansing
Professor of History
The University of Mississippi, Oxford

Introduction of Dr. Holly

Dr. Frances C. Henderson
Director, Alcorn State University
Division of Nursing, Natchez

1993 part 2
page 18



The 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration
 "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River"

Parsons

A Walking Tour

of

Historic Structures Near the River
 Along Broadway Street

(With Refreshments)

1:30 - 6:00 p.m., Saturday, June 5, 1993

NOTE: Tour begins at any of the tour sites.

Broadway Street Train Station
 200 North Broadway Street



In 1886, the train station was a narrow, one-story building with a passenger area at the south end, according to the Southern Insurance Maps of Natchez. By 1892 it had been expanded, with a new passenger depot to the south, and was named the "UNO & TER Freight Depot." The railway business continued to grow, and by 1897 the Broadway Street depot was fifty percent wider, extending farther north and south, and listed on the Southern map as the "Paines and Mississippi Valley Railroad Freight Depot." The red-roofed passenger depot that is standing today was built sometime between 1910 and 1925 and now houses the Cook of the Walls Restaurant.



Evans-Bentley
 107 South Broadway Street
 (Refreshments in the garden)

This brick Greek Revival townhouse, ca. 1831, was constructed for a free African-American named Robert Smith. The porch openings in the rear wing were carriage entrances, for Smith operated a hack (taxi) business in pre-Civil War Natchez. In the last two decades before the War, nearly half the entire free Black population in the state of Mississippi resided in Natchez. Smith, like other free Blacks, owned property, operated a successful business, and attended a White church, where his child was the first Black child christened. The house today is owned by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Mississippi.

The Parsonage
 305 South Broadway Street



The Parsonage was built in 1832 by the Methodist Episcopal Church on land donated by Peter Little, who resided at neighboring Rosalie. Design of the house, which includes an unusual combination of painted brick parapet and an elaborate brick cornice, is credited to Natchez architect and builder James Burdick. It is the home today of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Minkoff.



Rosalie
 100 Orleans Street

Rosalie, built for Peter Little in 1825, was named after the 1780 Fort Rosalie, which had previously stood on the hill south of the house. The house is important to American architecture because it is the first to bring together the architectural parts that make up the visual form of the Natchez mansion. During the War Between the States, the Union Army used Rosalie as its headquarters. Today Rosalie is owned by the Mississippi State Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

1993 part 2
 page 19

OFFICERS
 President - Dan Hland
 Pres-Elect - Johnny Waycaster
 Secretary - Robin Panchos
 Treasurer - Irvin Andersen
 Sgt.-at-Arms - Butch Metcalfe

Rotary Club of Natchez



CLUB NO. 542, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
 Natchez, Mississippi

DIRECTORS
 Fred Enrick
 B. B. Huch
 Bill Rash Mosby
 Bill Murray
 Page Ogden
 Forest Persons
 Chuck Caldwell

District 6820

"Service Above Self"

April 21, 1993

The Pledge of Allegiance was rendered by Larry Branyan.

Last Meeting April 14, 1993

GUESTS

Helene Buttross and Clara Miller were the guests of Al Buttross.

VISITING ROTARIANS

None.

ATTENDANCE

For the week of April 7, 1993 we had 85.4%.

MAKEUPS

Michael Shumway	Ferriday, LA
Bill McGehee	Ferriday, LA
Jerry Moore	Ferriday, LA

MISSING SPOKES

Don Barazza	Craig Bradford	Mel Buckley	Bill Byrne	Don Farrar
Will Feltus	Joan Gandy	Jonathan Godfrey	Bazile Lanneau, Jr.	Fred Mange
George Matthews	Bill McGehee	Bill Mitchell	Mal Morgan	Bill Murray
Bruce Newman	Tommy O'Brien	Joe Parker	Forest Persons	Lamont Rowe
Michael Shumway	Carl Voss	John Young		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Last Week's Program was the responsibility of George Moss, M.D.
 Susan Beaucheve, Supervisor of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) program which helps abused children. She talked about the special program through Judge Hudson's Youth Court. They need volunteers to work with children.

Today's Program:	Marty Nathanson - C.V.S. discussed N.L.C.
Scholarship Drawing:	\$44.00 - Ray Bane, Winner
Attendance Drawing:	#28 Clarence wins again!
Closing Motto:	Sammy Porter

FUTURE PROGRAMS

April 28 Bill Murray

SHARE A RIDE - MAKE UP YOUR ATTENDANCE - FERRIDAY, LA, THURSDAY AT 12:05 P.M. PANOLA WOODS C.C.

HARRISONBURG, LA, MONDAY AT 6:00 P.M.

SICILY ISLAND, LA, TUESDAY AT 6:30 P.M. MEDICAL CENTER

1993 part 2
 page 20

Tourists guide to ... **Historic** *Natchez*

May 1993

A monthly reader service of The Natchez Democrat

Natchez, Miss.

■ JUNE will kick off a glorious celebration of the Mississippi River when the Natchez Literary Celebration gets under way during the first week of June.

The literary event combines scholarly lectures with lighter entertainment and tours of some of the area's historic sites. Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the Natchez National Historical Park, the celebration is an international event.

This year the celebration will carry out the theme, "Readin', Writin' and the River," a salute to the literature and arts inspired by the Mississippi River. The June 2-7 event will feature a concert of Mississippi River tunes by the Mississippi Pops Symphony Orchestra.

Information about tickets is available at 1-800-647-6724 or, locally, 442-9111. Address correspondence to Natchez Literary Celebration, P.O. Box 894, Natchez, Miss. 39121-0894.

1993 part 2
page 21

Historic

Natchez
on the Mississippi



Tourism Highlights



P.O. Box 1485 • Natchez, MS 39121

May 1993 • Newsletter

2-6

The Natchez Literary Celebration Presents "The Three R'S - Readin', 'Ritin' and the River".

1993 part 2
page 22

Literary Celebration Has African- American Emphasis

The rich African-American heritage of the Natchez area during the 19th and 20th centuries will be a major part of the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, according to Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

Smith is co-chairman of the Celebration with Becky Junkin Nevill of Co-Lin and Gerald Gaumer of the Natchez National Historical Park. The event set for June 2-6, 1993, is co-sponsored by Co-Lin and the Historical Park.

"Several prominent Natchez African-Americans serve on the Celebration's steering committee," Smith said.

"They include Judge Mary Lee Toles, President of the Natchez Association for the Preservation of African-American Culture; George Dunkley, Minority Affairs Director of the Natchez Economic and Community Development Authority; William H. Terrell of the Bluff City Post; Josie Gilchrist Anderson, Vice-President of NAPAC; and Bettye Mullen, director of Student Support Services at Co-Lin."

Theme for the fourth annual conference is "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River."

A series of 16 lectures will take place at the Natchez Municipal Auditorium on Jefferson Street.

Interspersed will be house tours, movies, re-

ceptions, a symphony pops concert and special meals, Smith said.

"Natchez's Own Hil- lery Jacque Knight, III, a professor of English and a published poet from Tou- galoo College, will be one of several African-Ameri- cans in the spotlight," Smith said.

"His mother, the late Ordemese Knight, is high- ly regarded as one of Natchez's outstanding ed- ucators."

"Mr. Knight will read from his poetry which was influenced by the river and comment on it," Smith said. Knight's presentation is set for 11 a.m. on June 4.

"Another African-Ameri- can prominent in the con- ference is the author Er- nest Gaines of Oscar, La., near Natchez,

who is famous for his no- vel, 'The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman,'" Smith said. Gaines will pre- sent his program at 10:45 a.m. June 5.

"Also on the program is Dr. Shelley Fisher Fish- kin of Cambridge Univer- sity, England," Smith said.

"She is the author of a brand new book, 'Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-Americans Voices,' which explores the influ- ence of African-Americans on Twain's fiction."

Also of interest to Af- rican-Americans is a pro- gram on Elizabeth T. Greenfield, a slave born in Natchez who rose to fame as a soprano, Smith said. Billed as the "Black Swan," in 1853 Greenfield gave a command performance for Queen Victoria in London.

At 11:15 a.m. June 3, Dr. David Sansing of the University of Mississippi will discuss the Black Swan Dr. Ellistine Holly, soprano of Jackson State Univer- sity, will sing selections presented by the Black Swan in London in 1853.

In conjunction with the lectures, the Natchez Asso- ciation for the Preservatio of Afro-American Culture will hold an open house June 3 at the NAPAC Mu- seum on Market Street.

"From 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. that day will be general tours," Smith said.

"Then from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m., Judge Toles and her board will host a recep- tion open to the public. This reception will honor Hil- lery Knight and Gover- nor William Winter, who is master of ceremonies for the Celebration."

Presenting a concert after dinner at the Carriage House Restaurant on June 2 will be additional African-Amer- cans. They are Alvin Shel- by and members of the Holy Family Catholic Church Gospel Choir.

Serving as lecture chairmen for the confer- ence are still other Afri- can Americans. They are; Toles; Dr. Frances Hender- son, director of Alcorn State University's Division of Nursing in Natchez; Theodore "Bubba" West, Natchez Aldermen; and Dr. Alferdeen Harrison, pro- fessor of history at Jackson State University.

Tickets are \$5 per day for lectures and movies. Meals, receptions, a house tour, a pops concert by

See "CELEBRATION" p. 2



H.J. Knight, III



Ernest Gaines



Dr. A. Harrison



Jerry Clower



Country Roads

ADVENTURES CLOSE TO HOME



May 1993

April 23 - 25
Pointe Coupee Antique
Show & Sale
New Roads, Louisiana

Throughout May
The Natchez Opera
Festival
Natchez, Mississippi

June 2 - 6
The Natchez Literary
Celebration
Natchez, Mississippi

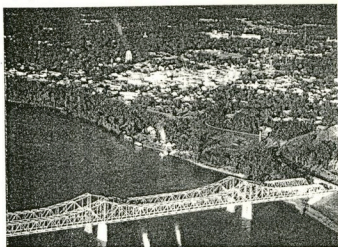
BETWEEN NATCHEZ & BATON ROUGE

CELEBRATION, from p. 1

the Mississippi Symphony
Orchestra and a perform-
ance by storyteller Jerry
Clower on June 5 are low
cost.

All tickets are available
from Natchez Box Office,
(601) 445-0353 or 1-800-
862-3259.

1993 part 2
page 24



THE THREE R'S --- READIN', RITIN' AND THE RIVER THE NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

by Anne Butler

The romance of Ol' Man River down through the ages is the unifying theme of this year's Natchez Literary Celebration, a week-long affirmation of the river's impact on the heritage and culture of Natchez and the entire Lower Mississippi River Valley.

Set in Natchez from June 2 through June 6, this year's gathering features everything from music to movies, from history to rollicking humor, from poetry to preservation, and highlights a number of nationally known personages like authors Willie Morris, Ernest Gaines, and homegrown storyteller Jerry Clower.

Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College with the National Park Service's Natchez Historical Park and the Natchez Trace Parkway, the conference is chaired as usual by a proven pair of popular faculty members from the college, the very capable Carolyn Vance Smith and Becky Junkin Nevill, in cooperation with Gerald Gaumer, Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services for the historical park. The Honorable William F. Winter, former governor and head of the board of trustees for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, will again serve as director of proceedings.

Most activities take place in the Natchez Municipal Auditorium on Jefferson Street. Wednesday's activities include a welcome by the president of Copiah-Lincoln, and lectures on "The Heritage of the Mississippi River" by John Hoesterey who leads the US Department of Interior's Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Project, and "Spaniards, Frenchmen and Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1519 - 1763" by Dr. William Coker of the University of West Florida. The premiere of a Mississippi Educational Television documentary called "Return to the River" is followed by a gala reception at Stanton Hall and dinner at the Carriage House.

On Thursday, the lectures include "Language Without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi" by Dr. Charles Lowery of Mississippi State, "Aaron Burr and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River" by eminent historian Dr. Robert V. Remini of the University of Chicago, "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez" by Dr. David Sansing of the University of Mississippi, and "The Mississippi River and the Civil War" by US Department of the Interior historian Terrence Winschel of Vicksburg National Military Park.

Thursday also features a showing of the movie "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and related discussion led by Dr. Charles Vahlkamp of Centre College, and Thursday evening's reception at the Ramada Hilltop honors top humanities scholars from the state's public two-year colleges. On Friday Dr. Thomas Gandy of Natchez shares his extensive knowledge and unmatched collection of historic photographs in the steamboatin' session called "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mud, Water, Boats and Steam." Other lecture topics include "Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices" by Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin of Cambridge University in England, "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation" by Hillery Jacque Knight III of Tougaloo College, and "The Rivers in My Life" by native son and nationally recognized author Willie Morris. There will be a showing of the movie based on Morris' *Good Ol' Boy*.

1993 part 2
page 25

Jerry Clower is to present "Stories from Home" at 7 p.m., Saturday, June 5, 1993, at the Natchez Literary Celebration. Tickets are \$7.50

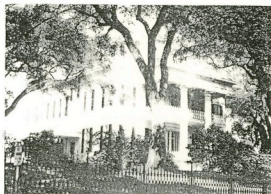
Highlight of Saturday evening is "Storytelling Along the River Road" by Dr. William Ferris, director of Ole Miss Center for the Study of Southern Culture, and Jerry Clower, downhome humorist from nearby Liberty. Saturday also features tours of historic homes near the river, Rosalie, the Parsonage, the William Johnson House and Evans-Bontura, as well as an evening open house at Choctaw.



All day on Sunday, writing workshops will be sponsored by the Mississippi Writers Association at the Best Western River Park Hotel. Throughout the week, oral presentations are mostly open on a space-available basis for those paying registration fees, with meals additional.

Free public events include a guided walking tour along the Natchez Bluff, art and photographic exhibitions, a living history re-enactment of the Union Army's occupation of Natchez 1863-1865 at Melrose, an exhibit of African American life in early Natchez and other displays featuring the Natchez Trace and the Historic Natchez Collection.

Ticket information may be obtained by writing to Natchez Box Office, P.O. Box 1264, Natchez, MS 39121 or by telephoning (601) 445-0353 or 1-800-862-3259.



Stanton Hall in Natchez is the site of a gala reception honoring Mississippi Educational Television on the premiere of "Return to the River," a 90-minute documentary. The gala will be Wednesday, June 2, 6:30 - 8 p.m. A \$5 ticket is necessary to attend.

1993 part 2
page 26

N-SIGHTS

Huck Finn, Jerry Clower to meet in Natchez at NLC

by Cissy Wisner

(See related stories, p.5 and p.8.)

Yes, it could happen only at the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration.

Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, a Cambridge University authority on Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*, and Mississippi's own yarn spinner, Jerry Clower, will meet in Natchez at the fourth annual NLC.

Set for June 2-6, the 1993 theme is "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River."

Sixteen noted authors, scholars and entertainers will be featured. A concert by the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra, the premiere of Mississippi ETV's "Return to the River" documentary, a study of the Aaron Burr conspiracy, a house tour, a living history re-enactment, and an art contest for students are a few of the highlights of this year's program.

The award-winning conference, held annually in Natchez in early June, is co-sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the Natchez National Historical Park

and the Natchez Trace Parkway.

It is partially funded by the Mississippi Arts Commission, the Mississippi Humanities Council of the National Endowment for the Humanities and numerous other government and business groups.

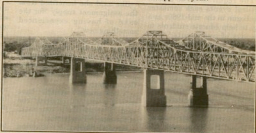
Gerald Gaumer of the Natchez National Historical Park is co-chairman of the celebration with Becky Junkin Nevill and Carolyn Vance Smith of Co-Lin.

"This year's conference is an educational extravaganza with something for everyone," Nevill

said. "Tickets are very affordable, beginning at \$5 a day for lectures."

Fishkin, professor of American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin, is author of a brand new book called *Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices*. She is currently Visiting Fellow at Cambridge and has won wide acclaim for her scholarship on Mark Twain.

Clower, longtime award winner as a major comedian, is also an author. His *Stories from Home*, published in 1992, was nominated for best non-fiction book in Mississippi last year.



OL' MAN RIVER: Providing the theme of the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration is the mighty Mississippi, seen here at Natchez-Vidalia.

NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

CO-LIN N-SIGHTS

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1993 5

1993 NLC: Star-studded lineup includes homefolks

by Cindy Wisner

The 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, set for June 2-6, features a star-studded lineup of extraordinary people, including four with a Southwest Mississippi connection, says co-chairman Becky Junkin Nevill of Co-Lin.

"These homefolks are Jerry Clower, Hillery Knight, Tom Gandy and Charles Vahlkamp," she said.

Jerry Clower of Amite County, renowned for telling colorful stories of his youth, recently moved back home to Liberty.

"He first began telling stories to help sell fertilizer for Mississippi Chemical Corporation in Yazoo City," Nevill said. "A resulting best-selling album sent him on his way."

In addition to being a Grand Ole Opry Star, Clower has written four best-selling books, won comedian-of-the-year awards from numerous organizations, has several gold records and has been named Country Comic of the Year for nine years.

Clower attended Southwest Mississippi Junior College, Summit, before attending Mississippi State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree.

Clower's performance at the Natchez Literary Celebration is Saturday, June 5, at 7 p.m. at

the Natchez Municipal Auditorium. Tickets are \$7.50, with a reception afterward at Choctaw, which costs \$2.50.

Hillery Knight, a 1962 graduate of Sadie V. Thompson High School in Natchez, is a published poet who is assistant professor of English at Tougaloo College in Tougaloo.

"Mr. Knight's mother, Ordemese Knight, served as principal for many years of Susie B. West School in Natchez," Nevill said.

Knight holds a bachelor's degree from Tougaloo College, a master's degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago and has studied at Harvard University.

He is a published poet and story writer who has a forthcoming book about his three-year association with Mohamed Ali.

"As part of the NLC, Knight will read from his poetry that was inspired by the river. His reading is scheduled for Friday, June 4, at 11 a.m.," Nevill said.

Also on this year's agenda is Dr. Thomas H. Gandy of Natchez.

Gandy, a retired Natchez



Vahlkamp



Knight



Gandy



Clower

physician, is a history lover who owns the Earl Norman Collection of Natchez photographs.

"With his wife, Joan, he is author of three books on Natchez history, including *The Mississippi Steamboat Era*," Nevill said.

Gandy's topic for the NLC is "The Mississippi River: Mud, Water, Boats, and Steam." The lecture is scheduled for June 4 at 8:30 a.m.

Dr. Charles Vahlkamp, professor of American film as well as French at Centre College, Danville, Ky., is married to the former Sarah McLaurin of Natchez. "He is the son-in-law of former Superintendent of Adams County schools, Gilmer McLaurin," Nevill said.

Vahlkamp is a graduate of Vanderbilt University, where he earned bachelor, master and doctoral degrees. "He has also studied extensively in France," Nevill said.

Vahlkamp will lead discussions June 3, 4 and 5 of three

films which relate to lecture topics.

Joining these speakers will be presenters from across the United States and Europe.

They are:

- John Hoesterey, Denver, chairman of the National Park Service's Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Project, "The Heritage of the Mississippi River."

- Dr. William S. Coker, University of West Florida, "Spaniards, Frenchmen, and Englishmen on the Mississippi River."

- A. J. Jaeger, Director, Mississippi Educational Television, "Return to the River," a documentary.

- Dr. Charles Lowery, Mississippi State University, "Language Without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy, and Tall Tales on the Mississippi."

- Dr. Robert V. Remini, The University of Illinois, "Aaron Burr and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River."

- Dr. David G. Sansing, The University of Mississippi, "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez."

- Terrence Winschel, National Park Service historian of Vicksburg, "Unwoven to the Sea: The Mississippi River During the Civil War."

- Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Cambridge University, Cambridge, England, "Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices."

- The author Willie Morris of Jackson, "Rivers in My Life."

- Dr. Peggy W. Frenshaw, Louisiana State University, "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart."

- The author Elizabeth Spencer, The University of North Carolina, "Port Claiborne near the River."

- The author Ernest Gaines, of San Francisco and The University of Southwestern Louisiana, "Of Men and Rivers."

- Dr. William Ferris, The University of Mississippi, "Storytelling Along the River Road."

Cost of lectures is \$20 for four days or \$5 per day, with meals and special events optional. The entire package for all lectures, meals, tours and special events is \$95.

Tickets and more information are available by calling Natchez Box Office at (601) 445-6353 or 1-800-862-3259 or by writing P.O. Box 1264, Natchez, MS 39121. (To order tickets, see p. 8.)

1993 part 2
page 28

Tours, re-enactment, films and more added to NLC

Walking tours, the re-enactment of the Federal occupation of Natchez, river music, a film festival, an art exhibit and other attractions are being added to this year's Natchez Literary Celebration, according to co-chairman Gerry Gaumer, chief of interpretation and visitor services for the Natchez National Historical Park.

"One new attraction is a series of free, guided walking tours of the riverfront by National Park Service experts," Gaumer said. "These will take place at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, June 2-4."

• Also new is the re-enactment of the Federal military occupation of Natchez, 1863-65, on the grounds of the mansion Malheur.

"Re-enactors will dress and act according to that time period," Gaumer said. "They will discuss the damage and destruction of the occupation."

• Also new will be the illustration of a lecture by the actual singing of songs related to the lecture topic, Gaumer said.

"Dr. Ellistine Holly, professor

of music at Jackson State University, will sing during Dr. David Sansing's lecture on the 'Black Swan,' Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield of Natchez," he said.

"These selections were sang by the Black Swan for Queen Victoria in the 1850s. We're following a program used at the royal concert."

• Also brand-new is "Return to the River," a 90-minute documentary by Mississippi Educational Television, which will premiere in Natchez on Wednesday, June 2, at 5 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium.

• Also new this year is a mini film festival with discussions led by Dr. Charles G. Vahlkamp, a film expert of Centre College, Danville, Ky.

"Films to be shown are 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,' 'Good Old Boy' and 'The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman,'" Gaumer said. "These films relate directly to lecture topics."

• Also new will be a one-hour concert called "The Music of the Mississippi" by the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra, using selections relating to the river, Gaumer said. "This con-



Elizabeth T. Greenfield

cert will be held Friday, June 4, at 7 p.m."

• Something else new this year is the attendance of a selected group of outstanding students and faculty members in the humanities divisions at Mississippi's public community colleges.

"These people will be honored at a reception at the Ramada

Inn terrace on Thursday, June 3, from 6:30-8:00 p.m.," Gaumer said.

• Also added is a display of winners of a student art contest called "The Mighty Mississippi," Gaumer said. "Prudence McGhee, an art instructor at Co-Lia, is chairman of this contest. Each category relates to books or subjects of lectures during the Celebration."

The contest is co-sponsored by the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture, the Armstrong Library and the Celebration, Gaumer said. "The exhibit will hang at the Armstrong Library."

• Something many people have been waiting for will also take place during the NLC, Gaumer said.

"We're honored by Mr. and Mrs. Don DePriest of Columbus, who are allowing a gala re-opening of their showplace, Chestaw, for our grand finale on Saturday night, June 5," he said.

"This mansion has been spectacularly and painstakingly restored. It will be a magnificent ending to a magnificent week."

Two workshops added

A pre-conference workshop and a post-conference workshop have been added to the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, said NLC co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith.

"Natchez's Spanish records will return home June 1, when Dr. Douglas Inglis of Seville, Spain, leads a free, all-day workshop at the Armstrong Library."

This workshop is sponsored by the library, the Natchez Historical Society and the NLC, Smith said. Topics will be "Spanish Imperial Organization and Structure," "Spanish Natchez Documentation" and "The Colonial Natchez Database."

For those who want to sit and learn at the feet of the masters, an all-day writing workshop will follow the Celebration on June 6, at the Best Western River Park Hotel.

"The Mississippi Writers Association will sponsor sessions by noted writers," Smith said. "These include Will D. Campbell, whose newest book is *Proceeders*; senior editor Johnnie Prichard of the University Press of Mississippi; Dr. Peggy W. Frenchaw of Louisiana State University; Millsaps College writing instructor Rebecca Hood-Adams of Jackson and several others."

The Natchez Democrat

Friday, May 7, 1993

Student artists invited to join river contest

Deadline for entries in "The Mighty Mississippi," a student art contest, is May 10, according to contest chairman Prudence McGehee.

The contest is sponsored by the Natchez Literary Celebration, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture, the Natchez Art Association and the Judge George W. Armstrong Library.

"Participants must be school-age and reside in the Natchez-Vidalia area," McGehee said. "Each entry should be 11 inches by 14 inches and may be executed in any media on paper or poster board. Entry

"Each group will receive a first, second and third place cash award of \$5 for first, \$3 for second and \$2 for third place."

—Prudence McGehee
contest chairman

forms must be attached to the back of each work."

Entry forms are available from the Armstrong Library and from teachers in area schools, McGehee said. Entries will be collected at schools on May 11, she said.

Categories and subjects are drawn from topics of the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, which is using the theme, "The

Three R's: Read', Ritin' and the River." These categories are:

- Pre-school through kindergarten: "Old Man River."
- Grades one and two: "Our Indian Heritage."
- Grades three and four: "Huck Finn Adventures."
- Grades five and six: "Steamboats, Pirates and Bandits."
- Grades seven and eight: "Jer-

ry Clower Stories."

■ Grades nine through 12: "Emmet Gaines Stories."

"Each group will receive a first, second and third place cash award of \$5 for first, \$3 for second and \$2 for third place," McGehee said.

"Two honorable mentions will also be given per group," she said. "These winners will receive a free pass to the showing of the movie version of 'The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman' at 1 p.m., June 5, at the Natchez Municipal Auditorium."

Winning entries will be displayed at the Armstrong Library from May 25 until June 6.

1993 part 2
page 30



May 13, 1993

Carolyn Vance Smith
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
823 Highway 61 North
Natchez, MS 39120

Dear Carolyn,

It was a pleasure meeting you last week. I enjoyed working with you and I hope we can work together in the future.

Your first spot on In Brief will air on May 25th between 11:55am and 12 Noon and the second spot will air on May 26th and on May 31 at the same time.

Please feel free to call me at (318) 237-1500 if I can help you in any other way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vikki A. Verda".

Vikki A. Verda
WNTZ Public Service Director

411 FRANKLIN STREET

NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI 39120

(601) 442-4800

1993 part 2
page 31

P The Natchez Democrat **PEOPLE**

SUNDAY, MAY 16, 1993

1993 part 2
page 32

Life ain't complicated with Jerry Clower



The Natchez Democrat/Barbers Gerard Kauer
SOUTHERN STORYTELLER: Jerry Clower, popular humorist and raconteur, relaxes in his home in rural Mississippi near Liberty. Clower is among the headliners to be featured at the upcoming Natchez Literary Celebration in early June.

1993 part 2
page 33

Southern humorist, Jerry Clower, scheduled to perform at festival

By MIKE WILLEY
The Natchez Democrat

"Ooh, Mercy!" Jerry Clower is wiping his brow this warm May morning, remembering one of the coldest nights of his life. It happened long ago on one of those two hundred nights of the year he spends away from his beloved Mississippi home. He was performing in Saint Paul, Minn., and it was co-cold.

"I ain't never been in a place in my life below zero," he says. "And when they told me it was going to get down to thirty below zero, ooh mercy, I got in that hotel and slept BETWEEN those mattresses!"

It's a typical Clower story, grounded in actual event and universal in its appeal. But a joke it is not. Clower is quick to point out that he's a humorist, not a comedian.

"I don't tell funny stories," he says. "I tell stories funny. I think I've proven that the funniest things in the world actually happened."

"Why just last week," he laughs, "I was standing on the corner of the street, right here in Liberty, Mississippi, and this funeral come by. I was there with some other men folk and one turns to the other as the hearse goes by and says, 'Who died?' The other fellow looks back at the first and says, 'The one in the first car.'" Clower roars with laughter at the memory. "I'll tell you what the key to my success is," he says. "God has given me enough talent to be funny without being vulgar."

Jerry Clower describes himself as "a good ole boy that grewed up poor, worked hard and accumulated something, and

"I don't tell funny stories. I tell stories funny. I think I've proven that the funniest things in the world actually happened."

— Jerry Clower

strives to do it God's way.

"And I'll tell you what the secret of being a humorist is," he says. "It's the talent to remember."

Not all of Clower's stories are humorous. His earliest memory, dredged up after thirty seconds of earnest pondering, is of a funeral he attended when he was five years old. "They made the mistake of letting me see my grandmother in her coffin," he says. "She had made me tea-cakes with her own hands, and when I saw her there in that coffin with her hands folded — well, for thirty years I couldn't go to bed at night." He pauses to fold his hands over his chest. "I couldn't go to bed at night and fold my hands like this in my grandmother's face."

That story, of course, is not typical Clower material. Most of his stories are deftly molded from happier memories, material mined from the experience of being born outside Liberty "not a mile from here, in the quarters of a sawmill." Clower's natural father deserted his teenage wife and two baby sons during the great depression. Clower's family worked their way out of that, and, after graduation from high school, Jerry went off to World War II.

"I graduated one day and enlisted the next," Clower says, speaking of his South

Pacific experiences aboard an aircraft carrier. "I will never forget those Kamikazi planes."

After Clower came home, "My mama said, 'Baby, what you gonna do with the rest of your life?'" "I said, Mama, I want to be a 4-H Club agent and go into ag-eye-busness."

Clower went to Mississippi State where he played football with Natchezian Joe Fontano and roomed with Joe Serio. After graduation he married his childhood sweetheart, Homerline Wells, fathered one son and three daughters, and worked twenty years selling fertilizer. "I backed into show business," he says. "I found I could sell more fertilizer if I was funny."

A friend heard some of his stories, took a tape to MCA Record Company, and it was produced as Clower's first hit, "Jerry Clower from Yazoo City, Mississippi, Talks."

Twenty-four records and four books later, Clower is the best known country humorist in America. "My 25th record comes out in July," he says. "I told 'em, just call it JCR25." It'll feature the same kind of stories Clower is famous for.

Typical of Clower's recent material is a story he calls "The Glory Hole," and it's on

his most recent audio tape called "Sideshow."

"Me and Marcell Ledbetter growed up together," he says. "We'd go swimmin' in a hole in the Amite River we called the baptising hole, the Glory Hole. We'd play at church there, have baptising service. And we was twenty five Baptists to one Methodist, so we'd get into arguments about the correct way to baptize. Well, one day here comes Marcell, leading this goat on a leash. He wanted to baptize that goat. Now if you ever tried to put a goat in water you know what trouble we was in. We was tryin' to put that goat's head under water, and the goat was sayin', 'Do-o-n't.' Just kickin' us and hookin' us with his horns. Well, after a while this was just too much trouble, and Marcell wipes the blood out of the corner of his eye and says, 'Look, let's just sprinkle him and let him go to Hell.'"

Has Clower's material changed over the years? "Well, yes," Clower says. "Things that happen in the neighborhood are different now. Back when I was growing up you know what our main play pretties were? Whoever had the most empty Prince Albert tobacco cans was rich. Whoever had the most empty thread spoons to make wooden wheels with was rich. Those toys they have now-a-days . . ." he shakes his head in disbelief.

But the material old and new is still there. Clower is looking forward to appearing in Natchez for Co-Lin's Literary Festival this spring. He has no idea what stories he'll tell. "I don't prepare anything," he says. "All I know is that I'm the Saturday

See CLOWER, Page 5C

1993 part 2
page 34

Annual literary celebration will salute Mississippi River

The fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration, June 2-6, will present Jerry Clower on stage as a special event at 7 p.m. on June 5 at the City Auditorium.

In addition, the celebration will include lectures, tours, entertainments, concerts, meals and special events saluting the Mississippi River and its influence on literature, history and culture of Natchez and the Lower Mississippi River Valley.

The event, titled "The Three R's: Readin', Ritin', and the River," is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the Natchez National Historical Park and Natchez Trace Parkway.

Free events include:

■ "Faces and Phases of the River," a guided walking tour along the Natchez bluff by national park rangers, June 2-4.

■ "The Mighty Mississippi," an exhibit of winning entries in a regional art contest at Judge George W. Armstrong Library, June 2-6.

■ "Steamboating in Style," a photograph exhibit at Historic Jefferson College by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, June 2-6.

■ "The Natchez Trace," an exhibit at the City Auditorium by the Natchez Trace Parkway, June 2-6.

■ "The Historic Natchez Collection," an exhibit of reproduction furniture and accessories at

the Historic Natchez Foundation on South Commerce Street, June 2-6.

■ "Afro-American Life in Natchez," an exhibit at the Natchez Afro-American Museum by the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture, June 3.

■ Living history re-enactment of the Union Army's occupation of Natchez, 1863-65, on the grounds of Melrose, June 5-6.

Lectures begin on June 2 and continue through June 5 at the City Auditorium. All oral presentations except for the June 5 presentation at 7 p.m. are open on a space-available basis for a registration fee of \$5 a day or \$20 for all four days. Lectures are financially

assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Tickets for all events are available at Natchez Box Office, P.O. Box 1264 in Natchez. The telephone number at Natchez Box Office is 445-0353.

Lectures are as follows:

■ "The Heritage of the Mississippi River," by John Hoesterey, leader of the Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Project of the U.S. Department of the Interior, June 2, 1:15 p.m.

■ "Spaniards, Frenchmen and the Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1519-1763," by Dr. William S. Coker, professor of history emeritus at the University of West

Florida in Pensacola, June 2, 2:45 p.m.

■ "Language without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi," by Dr. Charles Lowery, chairman of the department of history at Mississippi State University, June 3, 8:30 a.m.

■ "Aaron Burr and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River," by Dr. Robert V. Kemmi, professor of history at the University of Illinois in Chicago, June 3, 10 a.m.

■ "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez," by Dr. David G. Samsing, professor of history at the University of Mississippi in

See RIVER, Page 5C

1993 part 2
page 35

Clower

Continued from Page 1C

evening closer-closer at the auditorium, and I know I'll start off by saying 'what a joy it is to perform in your own home country.'

And afterwards he'll be back on the road, Delta Airline's most frequent flyer, out at some concert somewhere wearing his trademark red suit, ruffled shirt, and white ostrich cowboy boots. "It's just wonderful," he says, "to watch families giggle and grin out there in the audience."

"Life ain't complicated," he laughs, "Ha-aah!"

River

Continued from Page 1C

Oxford, June 3, 11:15 a.m.

■ "The Mississippi River and the Civil War," by Terrence Winchell, historian with the Vicksburg National Military Park, June 3, 2 p.m.

■ "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," the movie, with discussion led by Dr. Charles G. Vahlkamp, professor of American Film Studies at Centre College in Danville, Ky., June 3, 3:15 p.m.

■ "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mud, Water, Boats and Storm," by Dr. Thomas H. Gandy, author and historian of Natchez, June 4, 8:30 a.m.

■ "Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices," by Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, visiting fellow at Cambridge University in Cambridge, England, June 4, 10 a.m.

■ "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation," by Hillary Jacques Knight III, associate professor of English at Tougaloo College, June 4, 11 a.m.

■ "The Rivers in My Life," by Willie Morris, Mississippi author, June 4, 2 p.m.

■ "Good Ol' Boy," a movie based on a Willie Morris book, with a discussion led by Dr. Vahlkamp, June 4, 3:15 p.m.

■ "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart," by Dr. Peggy W. Ponnshaw, professor of English

at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, June 5, 8:30 a.m.

■ "Port Claiborne: A Reading with Commentary," by Elizabeth Spencer, writer-in-residence at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, June 5, 9:15 a.m.

■ "Of Men and Rivers," by Ernest Gaines, writer-in-residence at University of Southwestern Louisiana at Lafayette, June 5, 10:45 a.m.

Other ticketed events, which require admission above the general admission to the lectures:

■ "Storytelling Along the River Road," by Dr. William Ferris of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Southern Mississippi and humorist Jerry Clower of Liberty on June 5 at 7

Library collection

New and donated additions to the Judge George W. Armstrong Library collection includes:

Adult fiction

"Cat Who Went Into the Closer" by Lillian Jackson Braun;
"Garden Club" by Marjell Resnik Jackson;
"Holy Thief" by Ellis Peters;
"I'll Be Seeing You" by Mary Higgins Clark;
"Now You See Him" by Anne Stuart;

"Poison Flowers" by Natasha Cooper;

"Reckless" by Amanda Quick;
"Ten Thousand" by H.W. Coyle.

Adult nonfiction

"Birthday Cake Book" by Sylvia Thompson;
"Book of U.S. Postal Exams" by Velisizar B. Baulista;
"Caregivers' Roller Coaster" by Billie Jackson;
"Cars" by M. Krebs;
"Catfish and the Delta" by Richard Schweld;

"Complete Medicinal Herbs" by Penelope Ody;

"Computers" by Linda Williams;
"Conception, Pregnancy and Birth" by Miriam Stoppard;

"Fashion" by Kathleen Beckert;
"Fitness" by Mauro R. Carlson;

"Gail Brown's All-New Instant

Interiors" by Gail Brown;
"Health Care" by Susan Gordon;
"History of Men's Costume" by Marion Sichel;

"History of Women's Costume" by Marion Sichel;

"Medical and Spiritual Guide to Living with Cancer" by W.A. Fintel;

"Music" by Ted Greenwald;
"Nurses: The Human Touch" by Michael Brown;

"Why Doesn't My Funny Bone Make Me Laugh" by Alan P. Xenakis;

Adult reference

"Critical Essays of Walker Percy" by J. Donald Crowley;
"Handbook of Chemistry and Physics,"

"Peterson First Guide to Caterpillars" by Amy Bartlett Wright;

"Peterson First Guide to Trees" by George A. Petrides;

"Tapping the Government Grapevine" by Judith S. Robinson;

Children's books

"Animal Science" by Anita Ganeri;

"Attaboy, Sam!" by Lois Lowry;

"Body Science" by Anita Ganeri;

"Disappearing Friend Mystery" by Gertrude C. Warner;

"Earthwise at School" by Linda Lowery;

"Hurricanes" by Arlene Eribach.

1993 part 2
page 36



The University of Mississippi

Center for the Study of Southern Culture
University, MS 38677
(601) 232-5993

May 18, 1993

TO: State Advisory Committee Members, Spouses, and Friends

As time approaches for our meeting during the Natchez Literary Celebration, I want to tell you how much I look forward to seeing all of you and to remind you about some details that Frances Patterson, our outstanding chair for the past two years, has sent you in recent weeks.

Your Literary Celebration brochure outlines the program for this year's theme "Readin', 'Ritin', and the River" and lists a variety of receptions, meals, and other events. SAC member Carolyn Vance Smith, who is co-chair of the festival, asked me to remind you that tickets are needed for all events. If you have not yet reserved your tickets, please do so immediately. Instructions, with a toll-free number, and a reservation form are enclosed for your convenience.

We have been eagerly awaiting the premiere of "Return to the River," a documentary made during our Delta Queen trip two years ago. Carolyn asked me to tell you that the production has been delayed, but that excerpts will be shown following the 2:45 p.m. session on Wednesday, June 2. ETV staff members will be on hand to discuss the documentary.

As Frances mentioned, John and Betty Callon have invited us to an open house/reception at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 4. The Callons' address is Number 1, Magnolia Vale Road; telephone 442-2851. This event will end in time for us to attend a concert by the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra. (The concert ticket is \$5.00.)

At noon on Saturday, June 5, we will gather at the Carriage House in Stanton Hall for lunch (\$14.50 a person) in the Queen's Room. Our meeting will begin immediately after lunch and will conclude by 3:00 p.m. If you have not yet notified the Center about arrangements, please call Roger Saterstrom at 1-800-862-3259 to let him know if you plan to attend and how many persons will be in your party.

When you call Mr. Saterstrom, you may also reserve festival tickets and make reservations for lodging if needed. You may also call the Center during the next few days if you have questions. In Natchez, Ann Abadie will be at the Eola (445-6000) and Chuck Jordan at Ravenna (445-8516) on June 4 and 5, and you may call them if you have questions when you arrive.

As you can see from the agenda Frances sent you, we have many exciting topics to discuss. I look forward to seeing you at our meeting and during the celebration.

Sincerely,

Bill

William Ferris
Director

Enclosure

P.S.: Jerry Clower and I will present "Storytelling Along the River Road" at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 5. A \$7.50 ticket is needed for this event, which will be followed by a reception at Choctaw Mansion (\$2.50 a ticket).

A LEGACY OF ACHIEVEMENT WITH VISION FOR TOMORROW

1993 part 2
page 37



The Natchez Literary Celebration

Sponsored by
Copiah-Lincoln Community College

and
The National Park Service

May 19, 1993

- Natchez Trace Parkway
- Natchez National Historical Park

Ms. Becky Nevill
307 North Commerce Street
Natchez, MS 39120

Dear Becky:

The Literary Celebration is steadily approaching, and I wanted to inform you of specific arrangements that have been made for the guests of honor. Please let me know if you will NOT be joining the group for the following events:

- * Wednesday, June 2, 11:00 a.m. Brunch at the Wharfmaster Restaurant.
- * Wednesday, June 2, 6:45 p.m. Reception at Stanton Hall with dinner at the Carriage House.
- * Thursday, June 3, 12:30 p.m. Luncheon at The Natchez Eola Hotel.
- * Thursday, June 3, 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. Two receptions followed by dinner onboard the Lady Luck.
- * Friday, June 4, 12:15 p.m. Luncheon at historic Magnolia Hall.
- * Friday, June 4, 5:30 p.m. Dinner at The Cock of the Walk Restaurant.
- * Saturday, June 5, 12:00 p.m. Luncheon at Brothers Restaurant.
- * Saturday, June 5, 5:30 p.m. Dinner at The House on Ellicott Hill.

Please give me a call by Friday, May 21, as to your plans.

Becky, thank you for all you are doing to make this Celebration so special.

Love,

Carolyn

Carolyn Vance Smith, NLC Co-chairman
CVS:dns

Becky, a
letter like
this has
gone to 44
A. Turner on
the chain -
Another raft
of letters goes
to historians &
comp. folks -
Love - C

34
34
11
47
57

1993 part 2
page 38



COPIAH - LINCOLN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI 39120

May 20, 1993

Associate Dean

Jefferson Street Methodist Church
P.O. Box 862
Natchez, MS 39120

Dear Sir:

We appreciate your allowing Jefferson Street Methodist Church to be a part of our June Elderhostel program. We feel that the history of our church in Natchez will enhance our Elderhostel program.

There will be approximately 160 participants in the June program, which this year is being held in conjunction with our Natchez Literary Celebration. As I discussed with you on the phone, the group will be arriving at about 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, June 5. We wish to serve them a boxed lunch in your fellowship hall, as well as give them a brief overview of the history and background of the building.

We will split the group into two groups of about 80 each. We will alternate the two groups -one eating while the other receives the brief overview. We estimate that it will take about 45 minutes for each of the two sessions.

Mrs. Earline Gaines will bring the boxed lunches already prepared. She will not need to use any of your kitchen facilities. She would like to be able to get into the fellowship hall about 11:00 a.m. and should be out no later than 1:30 p.m. All she will need is tables and seating for about 80 people.

Additionally, we will need someone to talk to the two groups about the church and building. The Elderhostel group will have individuals from all across the United States and usually some foreign countries. There also may be some handicapped individuals. Their ages are generally 50 plus years, and they are a very educated group.

Again, we appreciate the use of the fellowship hall and allowing the facility to be a part of our June Elderhostel.

Sincerely,

Travis Thornton
Dean of the Natchez Campus

TT/rr

The Place to Be.

1993 part 2
page 39

Humorist turned fertilizer into entertainment career

By MIKE WILLEY
The Natchez Democrat

LIBERTY, Miss. (AP) — "Ooh, Mercy"

Jerry Clower is wiping his brow this warm May morning, remembering one of the coldest nights of his life. It happened long ago on one of those two hundred nights of the year he spends away from his beloved Mississippi home. He was performing in St. Paul, Minn., and it was cold.

"I ain't never been in a place in my life below zero," he said. "And when they told me it was going to get down to thirty below zero, ooh mercy, I got in that hotel and slept between those mattresses."

It's a typical Clower story, grounded in actual event and universal in its appeal. But a joke it is not. Clower is quick to point out that he's a humorist, not a comedian.

"I don't tell funny stories," he said, "I tell stories funny. I think I've proven that the funniest things in the world actually happened."

"Why just last week," he said, "I was standing on the corner of the street, right here in Liberty, Miss., and this funeral come by. I was there with some other men folk and one turns to the other as the hearse goes by and said, 'Who died?' The other fellow looks back at the first and said, 'The one in the first car.'"

Clower roars with laughter at the memory.

"I'll tell you what the key to my success is," he said. "God has given me enough talent to be funny without being vulgar."

Jerry Clower describes himself as "a good ole boy that grew up poor, worked hard and accumulated something, and strives to do it God's way."

"And I'll tell you what the secret of being a humorist is," he said. "It's the talent to remember."

Not all of Clower's stories are humorous.

"I'll tell you what the key to my success is. God has given me enough talent to be funny without being vulgar."

JERRY CLOWER

His earliest memory, dredged up after thirty seconds of earnest pondering, is of a funeral he attended when he was 5 years old.

"They made the mistake of letting me see my grandmother in her coffin," he said. "She had made me tea-cakes with her own hands, and when I saw her there in that coffin with her hands folded — well, for thirty years I couldn't go to bed at night."

He pauses to fold his hands over his chest. "I couldn't go to bed at night and fold my hands like this in my grandmother's face."

That story, of course, is not typical Clower material.

Most of his stories are modeled from happier memories, material mined from the experience of being born outside Liberty "not a mile from here, in the quarters of a sawmill."

Clower's natural father deserted his teen wife and two baby sons during the Depression. Clower's family worked their way out of that, and after graduation from high school, Jerry went off to World War II.

"I graduated one day and enlisted the next," Clower said, speaking of his South Pacific experiences aboard an aircraft carrier. "I will never forget those Kamikazi planes."

After Clower came home, "My mama said, 'Baby, what you gonna do with the rest of your life?' I said, 'Mama, I want to be a 4-H Club agent and go into aggie-business.'"

Clower went to Mississippi State University, where he played football. After graduation he married his childhood sweet-

heart, Homerline Wells, fathered one son and three daughters, and worked 20 years selling fertilizer.

"I backed into show business," he said. "I found I could sell more fertilizer if I was funny."

A friend heard some of his stories, took a tape to MCA Record Co. and it was produced as Clower's first hit, "Jerry Clower from Yazoo City, Mississippi, Talkin'."

Twenty-four records and four books later, Clower is the best-known country humorist in America.

"My 25th record comes out in July," he said. "I told 'em, just call it JC25."

It will feature the same kind of stories Clower is famous for.

Typical of Clower's recent material is a story he calls "The Glory Hole," and it's on his most recent audio tape called "Side-winder."

"Me and Marcell Ledbetter grewed up together."

"We'd go swimmin' in a hole in the Amite River we called the baptizing hole, the Glory Hole. We'd play at church then, have baptizing service. And we was twenty-five Baptists to one Methodist, so we'd get into arguments about the correct way to baptize."

"Well, one day here comes Marcell, leading this goat on a leash. He wanted to baptize that goat. Now if you ever tried to put a goat in water you know what trouble we was in."

"We was tryin' to put that goat's head under water, and the goat was sayin', 'Do-o-n't. Just kickin' us and hookin' us with his horns. Well, after a while this was just too much trouble, and



Jerry Clower
'I tell stories funny'

Marcell wipes the blood out of the corner of his eye and said, 'Look, let's just sprinkle him and let him go to Hell.'"

Has Clower's material changed over the years?

"Well, yes," Clower said. "Things that happen in the neighborhood are different now. Back when I was growing up you know what our main play pieties were? Whoever had the most empty Prince Albert tobacco cans was rich. Whoever had the most empty thread spools to make wooden wheels with was rich. These toys they have nowadays ..."

But the material old and new is still there.

Clower is looking forward to appearing in Natchez, Miss., for the annual Literary Festival in June. He has no idea what stories he'll tell.

"I don't prepare anything," he said. "All I know is that I'm the Saturday evening closer-outer at the auditorium, and I know I'll start off by sayin' 'what a joy it is to perform in your own home country.'"

And afterward he'll be back on the road, Delta Airline's most frequent flier, out at some concert somewhere wearing his trademark red suit, ruffled shirt and white ostrich cowboy boots.

"It's just wonderful," he said, "to watch families giggle and grin out there in the audience."

"Life ain't complicated," he said. "Ha-ash!"

1993 part 2
page 40

MONDAY, MAY 24, 1993

Looks like the good folks down at Copiah-Lincoln Community College are about to show off again. This year's Natchez Literary Celebration — scheduled for June 2-5 — is the fourth, and it appears to be better, if that's possible, than its three predecessors.

Carolyn Vance Smith, who teaches English at Co-Lin's Natchez campus, said the 1993 edition would be based on the Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin' and the River.

"We think this conference will have a more universal appeal because of the fascination for the Mississippi River down through history," Smith said.

Some of the authors on tap: Willie Morris, Elizabeth Spencer, Ernest Gaines, Hillery Knight, Bill Ferris and Jerry Clower.

Shelley Fishkin, the University of Texas professor who has been at Cambridge University for the past year, also will be there to discuss her book, *Was Huck Finn Black?* — Mark Twain's African-American Voices.

Smith said there will be a "pre-conference workshop" on June 1 with records of Natchez from the archives of Seville, Spain; and a "post-conference workshop" on June 6 sponsored by the Mississippi Writers Association, featuring Will D. Campbell as the keynote speaker.

For information on the Natchez Literary Celebration, call 1-800-862-3259, or write P.O. Box 1264; Natchez, 39121. . .

1993 part 2
page 41

SUNDAY, MAY 30, 1993

LITERATURE

RITIN' ON THE RIVER



Will Campbell



Elizabeth Spencer



Jerry Clower



Willie Morris

1993 part 2
page 42

■ The related Mississippi Writers Conference on June 6 will boost beginners.

By Linda Temple
Special to The Clarion-Ledger

BUDDING writers can learn to blossom at the sixth annual Mississippi Writers Conference, to be held in conjunction with the Natchez Literary Celebration on June 6.

The free, one-day workshop, sponsored by the Mississippi Writers Association, is moving to Natchez from its Jackson locale to bring participants closer to the larger conference and its convergence of scholars.

"Our goal is to nurture and educate writers, and by writers, we're not talking about people who are already established," said Jo Barksdale, president of the writers organization.

"We're talking about the person who enjoys writing but thinks they can never be a commercial success."

Mississippi College writing instructor Rebecca Hood-Adams will open the conference at 9 a.m. with *Mining Your Memories*, followed at 10:30 a.m. by JoAnne Prichard, executive editor of the University Press of Mississippi, who will discuss whether editors and publishers influence what American writers write.

See WRITERS, 4F

■ The Natchez Literary Celebration will probe the mystique of the Mississippi.

By Linda Temple
Special to The Clarion-Ledger

CELEBRATED sovereign of riverboats and rafts. Fount of fact and fable. Father of waters. For centuries, writers, composers and storytellers have found their muse in the muddy, mighty Mississippi.

The fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration will explore the river's powerful influence with 16 noted authors and scholars, Wednesday-June 6 at Natchez Municipal Auditorium, 207 Jefferson St.

The *Three R's: Readin', Ritin' and the River* is the theme for the series of public lectures and events organized by co-sponsoring Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the Natchez Historical Park, with funding from the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Since 1990, the conference has built a burgeoning following, precipitating its move from the cozy Eola Hotel, where more than 2,500 convened last year, to the more expansive auditorium.

"We are waking up dramatically to the fact that our part of America is fascinating to the rest of the United States and abroad," said Carolyn Vance Smith, co-chairman of the event and coordinator of

Copiah-Lincoln's English department.

"It tells us that there are plenty of people, old and young, who like to read, and to go where people talk about what they've read," Smith said. "People are genuinely thirsting for meaningful information."

Spinked among the visiting authors and academicians will be Mississippi writers Willie Morris, Elizabeth Spencer, Will Campbell and raconteur Jerry Clower, who'll tell *Stories From Home* from the book of the same name Saturday evening.

The focal point of the discussions is the Mississippi River, upon whose waters have crested the literary inventions of generations of writers.

Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, criticized by some for its often-pejorative depictions of blacks, gets a new interpretation from Cambridge University visiting fellow Shelley Fisher Fishkin during her lecture, *Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices*, at 10 a.m. Friday.

Several conference topics deal with the history of Southern blacks, Smith noted, "because a good deal of African-American culture is inextricably intertwined with the history of the Mississippi River."

The influences of English, French and Spanish settlers will also be explored, along with the steamboat and Civil War eras.

New this year is a mini-film festival facilitated by Charles Vahlkamp, professor of American Film Studies at Centre Col-

lege in Danville, Ky.

Participants will view and discuss the film version of Ernest Gaines' book *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, the 1983 *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* movie with Patrick Day as Huck, the made-for-TV movie based on Willie Morris' *Good Old Boy* and excerpts from a Mississippi ETV documentary-in-progress, *Return to the River*.

The conference ends June 6 with an all-day writers workshop with Campbell, Mississippi College writing instructor Rebecca Hood-Adams and University of Mississippi Press editor JoAnne Prichard.

Each day of the conference, which may be attended in whole or part, features a combination of lectures, films, meals, musical entertainment and receptions with participating scholars and authors.

Most lectures are included in the \$5 per day registration fee. Special events, priced from \$1.50-\$10, range from a dinner and gospel concert at Stanton Hall to a performance of river-inspired music by the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra.

Other events tied to the celebration are free, including half a dozen downtown art and photographic exhibits and a two-day re-creation of a Civil War encampment on the grounds of Melrose mansion.

■
For a schedule of events or to order tickets, call the Natchez Box Office at 1-800-862-3259.

Writers

From 1F

Award-winning author Will Campbell will address the crowd at a champagne brunch (\$15) from 11:30-1 p.m. with insights about his newest book, *Providence*, followed at 1 p.m. by tips on the high-interest area of children's literature from Anne Lundin, former reference librarian at the University of Southern Mississippi's deGrummond Children's Research Library.

At 2 p.m., Louisiana State University English professor Peggy Preshaw will present *The Art and Artifice of the Interview*, and at 3 p.m., Mississippi State University history professor Charles Lowery will discuss writing family histories. Campbell returns to the podium for a question-and-answer session from 4-5 p.m.

Space is limited to 200 for the workshop and 80 for the brunch, which requires reservations by noon Saturday. All events take place in the ballroom of the Best Western River Park Hotel in Natchez.

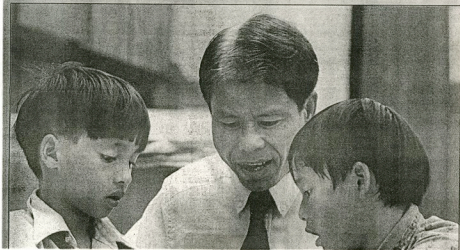
For details, call 1-800-862-3251.

1993 part 2
page 43

magazine

May 30 1993

© 1993, Capital City Press



1993 part 2
page 44

INDEX

DEPARTMENTS

BOOKS.....	18	PUZZLES.....	21
ENTERTAINMENT.....	3	TELEVISION.....	23
GALLERY.....	16	TRAVEL.....	7

FEATURES

ART NOTES.....	17	ENTERTAINMENT NOTES.....	4
BEST SELLERS.....	19	JUMBLE.....	21
BOOKS IN BRIEF.....	19	LOUISIANA ANCESTORS.....	22
BRIDGE.....	21	POET'S CORNER.....	19
BUILD IT.....	22	READINGS AND WRITINGS.....	18
CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....	4	STAMPS.....	20
CAPITALITES.....	6	TELEVISION LOG.....	23
CHILDREN'S READING CORNER.....	20	WHERE TO LOOK.....	17
COIN BOX.....	20	WHERE, WHAT IN THE WORLD.....	15
CROSSWORD.....	21	ZODIAC.....	22
CRYPTOQUOTE.....	21		

READINGS AND WRITINGS

'Readin', 'Ritin', and the River'

Five days of lectures, workshops, tours and other special events will begin Wednesday in Natchez, Miss., when the Natchez Literary Celebration presents "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River."

Wednesday: 1:15 p.m., "The Heritage of the Mississippi River" by John Hootenry, U.S. Department of the Interior; 2:45 p.m., "Spaziards, Frenchmen and Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1519-1763," William S. Colver, professor of history emeritus, University of West Florida.

Thursday: 8:30 a.m., "Language Without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi," Charles Lowery, chairman, department of history, Mississippi State University; 10 a.m., "Administering Spanish Natchez: A Late 18th Century River Town," Douglas Inglin, Seville, Spain; 11:15 a.m., "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez," David G. Sansing, professor of history, University of Mississippi; 2 p.m., "The Mississippi River and the Civil War," Terrence Wanschel, historian, U.S. Department of the Interior; 3:15 p.m., "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, a movie based on the novel by Mark Twain, with a discussion led by Charles G. Vahlkamp, professor, American film studies, Centre College, Danville, Ky."

Friday: 8:30 a.m., "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mud, Water, Boats and Steam," Thomas H. Gandy, author and historian, Natchez; 10 a.m., "Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices," Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Cambridge University; 11 a.m., "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation," Hilary Jacques Knight III, associate professor of English, Tusculum College, Tusculum, Miss.; 2 p.m., "The Rivers in My Life," Willie Morris, author, Jackson, Miss.; 3:15 p.m., "Good Ol' Boy," a movie filmed in Natchez and based on Morris' book, with discussion led by Vahlkamp.

Saturday: 8:30 a.m., "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart," Peggy W. French, professor of English, LSU; 9:15 a.m., "Purl Dabner: A Reading with Commentary," Elizabeth Spencer, writer-in-residence, University of North Carolina; 10:45 a.m., "Of Men and Rivers," Ernest Gaines, writer-in-residence, USL; 1 p.m., "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," a movie based on Gaines' novel with discussion led by Vahlkamp; 3:30-6 p.m., tour of historic houses near the river: Rosalie, The Parnassus, The William Jackson House and Drane-Bontura.

Sunday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Writing workshops with luncheon. Featuring Will D. Campbell, Arthur Gayton, Rebecca Hood-Adams, Arno Landin and JoAnne Prichard.

All oral presentations are \$5 per day or \$20 for four days. The fifth day's writing workshop is \$15, including lunch. Luncheon, dinners, tours and other special events extra. For ticket information, call Natchez Box Office, (601) 445-0353 or 1-800-362-3259.

Compiled by Sarah Sue Golden

Continued on page 45

Ernest Gaines says his reaction
to racism was to become a better writer

Using words as weapons

By HILLEL ITALIE

Associate Press writer

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines (Alfred A. Knopf, \$21) — Ernest Gaines didn't march in many Civil Rights protests during the 1960s. He had left the South years before and was busy trying to become a writer, a dream he dated back to his discovery of a library that was not for whites only.

But while it is typical of this patient, philosophical man that he would choose to avoid the more visible struggles of the time, it is also typical he would find a quiet, thoughtful way of adding his support.

His setting wasn't a statehouse or a lunch counter, but a tiny room in San Francisco. No flats or placards were raised in anger. Instead, there were words, plenty of words, their purpose as intimate and unshakable as a bevy of city buses.

"When Bull Connor would sic the dogs, I thought, 'Hell, write a better paragraph,'" recalled Gaines, now living in a larger house in San Francisco and working as a writer-in-residence at the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

In 1963, when I was writing *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, my friends said, 'Why write about a 110-year-old lady when all of this is going on now?' And I said, 'I think she's going to have something to say about it.'

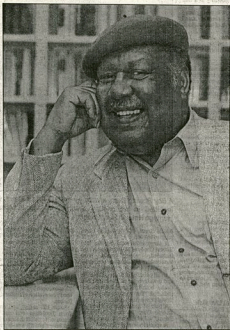
I recently read a passage to some students of the massacre scene in *Miss Jane Pittman*. They said, 'How in the world could you write about this slaughtering and say you didn't get angry?' I said, 'No, I did not get angry, but I wanted to write so well and make it so vivid that you'll get angry and not let this ever happen again.'

To look at him now, you might think Gaines personally organized every demonstration. The 63-year-old author is a large, sad-eyed man, who walks slowly and speaks in a rich, mellow voice that could make a believer out of Bull Connor. Lectures about hard times are unnecessary. His first job was on a Louisiana plantation at age 9; many of his childhood friends died young because they were murdered, or from poor health.

But Gaines can't hide a sense of playfulness; you could even say naughtiness. With a warm and unashamed smile, he admits to a lasting fondness for the soothing effects of bourbon. His stylish brown beard is fitting for a one-time, bohemian whose mind was altered forever by French poetry and Russian novels.

Much of Gaines' own work — six novels, a collection of stories and a children's book — is set in rural Louisiana. Remembering the letters he wrote for the old, uneducated people on the plantation, he likes to think of his books as a way of continuing that correspondence, speaking up for those who helped him develop his own voice.

In his new novel, *A Lesson Before Dying*, the year is 1940, and a young field worker, Jefferson, has been sentenced to



Associated Press photo

Ernest Gaines' newest book is *A Lesson Before Dying*, the story of a young field worker condemned to die.

"I had to make decisions very, very early. You have to make a decision when not to confront a white man, when to ask him a question, when to move off a sidewalk, how to do anything."

the electric chair for killing a white man. To add to his suffering, his own lawyer contended Jefferson didn't have the brain

to commit pre-meditated murder, that you might as well execute a hog while you're at it.

With Jefferson brooding silently in jail, his godmother summons Grant Wiggins, a schoolteacher and the nephew of one of her closest friends. Grant's assignment is a simple one, as simple as open-heart surgery: in the short time before Jefferson's trip to the electric chair, Grant is supposed to make him a man.

Make him a man? How can Grant make him a man when he doesn't know what a man is? He certainly doesn't think of himself that way. He can't forgive himself for staying in Louisiana, not when a college

(Continued on Page 16)

(Continued from Page 15)

education allowed him to go elsewhere. Faith, religious faith, didn't survive the university, and nothing took its place. He feels equally incapable of healing Jefferson's acute despair and of answering the open, questioning faces of his young students.

"I had these problems when I was growing up," Gaines said. "My aunt who raised me was a very devout Christian, but I was taken from my Protestant background to a small, Catholic school in Louisiana."

"I didn't fit in with the Catholic boys and the Creole boys. I was maybe 12 years old and I thought for a while, 'Why believe in one of these religions, why believe in any religion at all?' Then, when I went to the library, I began to read the *Ministère*. I was beginning to say, 'Hey, I like them guys. I like the way they think. I like the way they question things.'"

Gaines' writing draws on a deep sense of the world in which he grew up — from the gray, weather-beaten houses to an old woman's black, rimless hat — and on a haunting wonder at how some people seem destined for tasks others wouldn't dare take on.

Again and again, the author tests his characters, not unlike the way Ernest Hemingway's books challenge men to show grace under pressure. In Gaines' novel, *A Gathering of Old Men*, he tells of a group of elderly blacks who finally find the courage to defy white authority. In *My Father's House*, another novel, he contrasts the public strength of a Civil Rights leader with his inability to connect with the son he abandoned.

Late in *Miss Jane Pittman*, Gaines introduces a character named 'Jimmy,' a Louisiana baby marked from birth with the responsibility of

being the One. Like Gaines, he is called upon by the older residents to write letters for them. Like Gaines, he is shaken by questions that prayers can't fully answer.

"I had to make decisions very, very early. You have to make a decision when not to confront a white man, when to ask him a question, when to move off a sidewalk, how to do anything," Gaines said.

"I believe in God. I don't know that I believe in the Christian God... I love trees; I love flowers; I love water, I love the ocean. I love near the ocean in San Francisco. I don't want to say that the ocean is God, but that's as much god as the church is God."

And what would his aunt have thought of that?

"Ah, there's the point," he said. "It's a laugh. That's where the conflict comes in."

1993 part 2
page 46

The
Natchez

Digest

Community Currents

June 1993

In this issue...

Your response	4
Father's Day	5
...a photo feature	
Natchez Literary Celebration	8
by Barbara Potter	
Adams County Sheriff's Rodeo	10
Scenes from The Opera	11
Brides and Grooms	12
June Victorian Tour	21
Outstanding Natchezian	26
Guest Commentary	29
New Arrivals	30

1993 part 2
page 47

1993 NLC OFFERS A VARIETY OF EVENTS

by Barbara Potter

The upcoming Natchez Literary Celebration aims to please, with events to spark everyone's interest. From humorist Jerry Clower to a reception at the newly restored antebellum mansion Choctaw, the fourth annual celebration, taking place June 2-6, offers entertainments that should draw its largest crowd ever.

Prices are affordable: \$5 buys an entire day of speaker presentations. Luncheons, dinners, tours and receptions need separate tickets. There are also a number of free events.

Tickets to most activities are still available, due to moving to larger accommodations this year so more people can attend. Headquarters and most of the presentations are at the Natchez Municipal Auditorium, 207 Jefferson Street.

Tickets may be purchased in the auditorium lobby beginning Wednesday, June 2, or in advance from Natchez Box Office (601 445-0353). Brochures with complete listings, including free events and prices, are also available from Natchez Box Office, 104 South Wall Street.

This year's unifying theme for the celebration is the Mighty Mississippi - a timeless river so important throughout history.

Included in the four-day lineup are famous authors: Ernest Gaines (A Lesson Before Dying, The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman), Willie Morris (New York Days, Good Old Boy), Elizabeth Spencer (Light in the Piazza), and others.

There are movies, a concert, tours of historic homes along the bluff, special luncheons and receptions. There are historians: Dr. Douglas Inglis, Dr. Thomas Gandy, Dr. David Sansing, Dr. William Coker and others.

Free entertainments include guided walking tours along the bluff, art and photograph exhibits, African-American cultural exhibit, Natchez Trace exhibit, Civil War Living History Reenactments and tours of Melrose.

Attending some or all of the events is a good way to soak up some culture and have some fun at the same time. So, "Come on out to 'Readin', 'Ritin' and the River,'" urge the NLC sponsors, Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park and Natchez Trace Parkway.



Humorist Jerry Clower entertains at NLC's Grand Parade on Saturday night.

1993 part 2
page 48

Schedule for the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration:

Wednesday, June 2

- 1:00 p.m. Welcome and Introductions, Dr. Billy B. Thames, Copiah-Lincoln Community College
- 1:15 "The Heritage of the Mississippi River," John Hosterey, National Park Service, Denver
- 2:15 Refreshments
- 2:45 "Spaniards, Frenchmen and Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1519-1763," Dr. William Coker, University of West Florida
- 5:00 "Return to the River," highlights of an educational television documentary
- 6:45 Gala Reception honoring ETV dignitaries, Stanton Hall (\$5 ticket needed)
- 8:00 Dinner, Carriage House Restaurant, with concert by Holy Family Catholic Church Gospel Choir (\$15 ticket needed)

Thursday, June 3

- 8:30 a.m. "Language Without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi," Dr. Charles Lowery, Mississippi State University
- 9:30 Refreshments
- 10:00 "Aaron Burr and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River," Dr. Robert Remini, University of Illinois
- 11:15 "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez," Dr. David Sansing, The University of Mississippi
- 12:30 Luncheon, The Natchez Eola Hotel, with Musical Selections of "The Black Swan" (\$10 ticket needed)
- 2:00 "The Mississippi River and the Civil War," Terrence Winschel, National Park Service, Vicksburg
- 3:00 Refreshments
- 3:15 "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," movie based on the novel by Mark Twain, with discussion by Dr. Charles Vahlkamp, Centre College
- 6:30-8:00 Reception, Ramada Hilltop Inn, honoring outstanding humanities scholars from Mississippi's public two-year colleges, with music by The Great River Road Revue (\$5 ticket needed)

Friday, June 4

- 8:30 a.m. "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mud, Water, Boats and Steam," Dr. Thomas Gandy, Natchez
- 9:30 Refreshments
- 10:00 "Was Buck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices," Dr. Shelley Fishkin, Cambridge University
- 11:00 "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation," author Hillery Jacque Knight, Tougaloo College
- 12:15 p.m. Victorian Luncheon, Magnolia Hall (\$10 ticket needed)
- 2:00 "The Rivers in My Life," author Willie Morris, Jackson
- 3:00 Popcorn and soft drinks
- 3:15 "Good Old Boy," movie filmed in Natchez, based on Morris' book, with discussion by Dr. Vahlkamp
- 7:00-8:00 "The Music of the Mississippi," a concert by the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra (\$5 ticket needed)

Saturday, June 5

- 8:30 a.m. "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart," Dr. Peggy Prenshaw, Louisiana State University
- 9:15 "Port Claiborne: A Reading with Commentary," author Elizabeth Spencer, Writer-in-Residence, The University of North Carolina
- 10:00 Booksigning party honoring all speakers
- 10:45 "Of Men and Rivers," author Ernest Gaines, Writer-in-Residence, The University of Southwestern Louisiana
- 1:00 p.m. "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," movie based on Gaines' novel, with discussion by Dr. Vahlkamp
- 4:00-6:00 Tour, with refreshments, of historic structures along the bluff: Rosalie, The Parsonage, Evans-Bontura, Broadway Street Train Station (\$15 ticket needed)
- 7:00 "Storytelling Along the River Road," Dr. William Ferris, The University of Mississippi, and humorist Jerry Clower (\$7.50 ticket needed)
- 8:15 "Open House on the River Road," reception at Choctaw, honoring all speakers; also autographing books and tapes by Jerry Clower (\$2.50 ticket needed)

Sunday, June 6

- 9:00-5:00 p.m. Writing Workshops sponsored by Mississippi Writers Association, Best Western River Park Hotel (Luncheon costs \$15, ticket needed)

The Three R's: Rêadin', 'Ritin', and the River

Presentations are in the Natchez Municipal Auditorium, 207 Jefferson Street, unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, June 2, 1993

- 1:00 p.m.** Welcome and Introductions
Dr. Billy B. Thames, President
Cajal-Lincoln Community College
- 1:15 p.m.** "The Heritage of the Mississippi River"
Mr. John Hinojosa
Leader, Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Project
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Denver Service Center
Denver, Colorado
- 2:15 p.m.** Refreshments
- 2:45 p.m.** "Spaniards, Frenchmen, and Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1519-1763"
Dr. William S. Coker
Professor of History Emeritus
University of West Florida
Pensacola, Florida
- 5:00 p.m.** "Return to the River"
Premiere of a Mississippi Educational Television Documentary with Comments by
Mr. A. J. Jaeger, Director
Mississippi Educational Television
Jackson, Mississippi
- 6:45 p.m.** Gala Reception Honoring ETV Dignitaries at Historic Stanton Hall (\$5 Ticket Needed)
- 8:00 p.m.** Dinner, Carriage House Restaurant at Stanton Hall with Concert by the Holy Family Catholic Church Gospel Choir (\$15 Ticket Needed)

Thursday, June 3, 1993

- 8:30 a.m.** "Language Without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy, and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi"
Dr. Charles Lowery
Chairman, Department of History
Mississippi State University
Saskville, Mississippi
- 9:30 a.m.** Refreshments
- 10:00 a.m.** "Aaron Burr and the Great Conspiracy on the Mississippi River"
Dr. Robert V. Remini
Professor of History and
Research Professor of Humanities
University of Illinois
Chicago, Illinois

- 11:15 a.m.** "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez"
Dr. David G. Sansing, Professor of History
The University of Mississippi
Oxford, Mississippi
- 12:30 p.m.** Luncheon, The Natchez Estate Hotel
with Musical Selections by "The Black Swan"
(\$10 Ticket Needed)
- 2:00 p.m.** "The Mississippi River and the Civil War"
Mr. Terence Winschel, Historian
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Vicksburg National Military Park
Vicksburg, Mississippi
- 3:00 p.m.** Refreshments
- 3:15 p.m.** "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"
A Movie Based on the Novel by Mark Twain
With Discussion Led by
Dr. Charles G. Vahlkamp
Professor of American Film Studies
Centre College
Danville, Kentucky
- 6:30-8:00 p.m.** Reception, the Ramada Hilltop Inn
Overlooking the Mississippi River
Honoring Outstanding Humanities Scholars from
Mississippi's Public Two-Year Colleges
With Music by the River Road Revue
(\$5 Ticket Needed)

Friday, June 4, 1993

- 8:30 a.m.** "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mad, Warm, Boats, and Steam"
Dr. Thomas B. Gandy, Author and Historian
Natchez, Mississippi
- 9:30 a.m.** Refreshments
- 10:00 a.m.** "Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices"
Dr. Shibley Fisher Folsom, Visiting Fellow
Cambridge University
Cambridge, England
- 11:00 a.m.** "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation"
Mr. Hilary Jacques Knight III
Associate Professor of English
Tougaloo College
Tougaloo, Mississippi
- 12:15 p.m.** Victorian Luncheon, Historic Magnolia Hall
(\$10 Ticket Needed)
- 2:00 p.m.** "The Rivers in My Life"
Mr. Willie Morris, Author
Jackson, Mississippi

- 3:00 p.m.** Popcorn and Soft Drinks
- 3:15 p.m.** "Good-Of-Bay," A Movie Filmed in Natchez
Based on Mr. Willie Morris' Book
with Discussion Led by Dr. Vahlkamp
- 7:00-8:00 p.m.** "The Music of the Mississippi"
A Concert of River-Inspired Selections by
the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra
(\$5 Ticket Needed)

Saturday, June 5, 1993

- 8:30 a.m.** Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart"
Dr. Peggy W. Preshaw, Professor of English
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- 9:35 a.m.** "Pon Claiborne: A Reading with Commentary"
Ms. Elizabeth Spencer, Writer-in-Residence
The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- 10:00 a.m.** Booksigning Party Honoring All Speakers
- 10:45 a.m.** "Of Men and Rivers"
Mr. Ernest Gaines, Writer-in-Residence
The University of Southwestern Louisiana
Lafayette, Louisiana
- 1:00 p.m.** "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman"
A Movie Based on the Novel by Mr. Ernest Gaines
with Discussion Led by Dr. Vahlkamp
- 4:00-6:00 p.m.** Tour of Historic Houses near the River:
Rosalie, The Paragon, The William Johnson House
and Evans-Bentley, with Refreshments
(\$15 Ticket Needed)
- 7:00 p.m.** "Storytelling Along the River Road"
Dr. William Ferris, Director
The Center for the Study of Southern Culture
The University of Mississippi, Oxford
and
Mr. Jerry Clower, Harmonist and Author
Liberty, Mississippi
(\$7.50 Ticket Needed)
- 8:15 p.m.** "Open House on the River Road"
Reception at the Historic Mansion Choctaw
Honoring All Speakers
(\$2.50 Ticket Needed)

Sunday, June 6, 1993

- 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.** Writing Workshops with Luncheon,
Sponsored by Mississippi Writers Association,
The Best Western River Park Hotel
Featuring Mr. Will D. Campbell, Ms. Rebecca
Hood-Adams, Dr. Anne Lundin, Ms. JoAnne
Pritchard, and others
(\$15 Ticket Needed)

Here's how to buy tickets for NLC June 2 - 6

Because the lecture program of the fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration is financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities and other generous contributors, all lectures are open on a space-available basis for \$5 per day or \$20 for all four days, says NLC co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith.

"Other related weekend events, such as the military re-enactment, the walking tours and the exhibits, are free," she said. "Still other events are at low cost, from \$5 to \$15."

The only parts of the Celebration with limited seating are the three meals, which have space for about 150 people each, Smith said.

"Because the lectures will be at the Natchez Municipal Auditorium, nothing else is likely to be sold out — unless it's the Jerry Clower event on June 5."

"Even so, it would be wise to go ahead and call the Natchez Box Office for tickets," she said. "We have large groups of people reserving seats every day."

ORDER FORM *Please complete this form, clip and mail it with payment to Natchez Box Office, P. O. Box 1264, Natchez, MS 39121-1264.*

No. of Tickets _____ Cost _____

I. LECTURES AND GENERAL ADMISSION EVENTS

Package includes events A,B,C, D	\$520.00
<i>Or select specific events below.</i>	
A. June 2 lectures and MTV premiere	\$55.00
B. June 3 lectures and movie	\$55.00
C. June 4 lectures and movie	\$55.00
D. June 5 lectures, booksigning, movie	\$55.00

II. RECEPTIONS, CONCERT, TOUR, PRESENTATIONS

Package includes events E, F, G, H, I, J	\$540.00
<i>Or select specific events below.</i>	
E. June 2 reception	\$55.00
F. June 3 reception	\$55.00
G. June 4 concert	\$55.00
H. June 5 four-hour tour	\$55.00
I. June 5 FarrisClower presentations	\$55.50
J. June 5 reception	\$52.50

III. LIMITED ADMISSION EVENTS

Package includes events K, L, M, N	\$550.00
<i>Or select specific events below.</i>	
K. June 2 dinner	\$55.00
L. June 3 luncheon	\$55.00
M. June 4 luncheon	\$55.00
N. June 4 writing workshops/luncheon	\$55.00

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE \$ _____

Please check payment method.

- ☐ Personal check. (Make payable to NATCHEZ BOX OFFICE.)
☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa. (For credit card purchases, complete form below.)

Credit card account number _____

Expiration date _____

Today's date _____

Name (as you wish it to appear on name tag) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Please send this form with payment to:
Natchez Box Office
P.O. Box 1264
Natchez, MS 39121-1264

For information, please call Natchez Box Office at (601) 443-4333 or 1-800-863-3258.

1993 part 2
page 51



The Natchez Literary Celebration

Sponsored by
Copiah-Lincoln Community College

and
The National Park Service

- Natchez Trace Parkway
- Natchez National Historical Park

June 1, 1993

Post Office Box 894
Natchez, MS 39121-0894
(601) 442-9111
(601) 442-7047
FAX (601) 446-9967

SCHEDULE OF SOCIAL EVENTS HONORING LECTURERS AND OTHER VIP'S JUNE 2-5, 1993

Wednesday, June 2

11 a.m. Private brunch at The Wharfmaster Restaurant on Silver Street in Natchez Under-the-Hill, hosted by Co-Lin and the NLC. Take your own car. You can park on Silver Street, in front of the restaurant, or in the Lady Luck parking lot and take the shuttle back down to Silver Street.

4:15 p.m. Private reception onboard the Mississippi Queen, hosted by the Delta Queen Steamboat Co. Take shuttle van from auditorium to the reception and back.

6:45 p.m. Public reception at Stanton Hall, 401 High Street. Refreshments will be on the patio. Receiving guests in the main hall of the mansion will be Mississippi ETV officials Dr. Olon Ray, Mr. Jef Judin, Mr. Bob Pickett, Dr. Zo Brown, and Mr. Bill Pharr, all of Jackson, Mississippi. Please take your own car.

8:00 p.m. Public dinner at the Carriage House Restaurant at Stanton Hall.

Thursday, June 3

12:30 p.m. Public luncheon at The Natchez Eola Hotel. Please walk from the auditorium or take your own car.

6-7 p.m. Public reception at Museum of Natchez Association for Preservation of Afro-American Culture on Market Street, honoring former Mississippi Gov. William Winter of Jackson and Mr. Hillery Knight, formerly of Natchez and now of Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, Mississippi. Hosted by NAPAC board. Walk from the auditorium or take your own car.

6:30-8 p.m. Public reception at Ramada Hilltop Inn honoring outstanding humanities students and faculty members at Mississippi's public community colleges. Take a shuttle van from the auditorium anytime between 6:15-7:15 p.m. or take your own car. At 7:45 p.m. catch shuttle van at Ramada Hilltop Inn for private dinner on second floor onboard the Lady Luck in Natchez Under the Hill.

1993 part 2
page 52

page 2; Thursday, continued

8 p.m., dinner on Lady Luck, courtesy of Andy Tompkins and the Lady Luck Co. The group will sit together in the larger of the two restaurants onboard the boat. At 10 p.m. catch shuttle van at Lady Luck to return to auditorium. Or take free Lady Luck van to auditorium. Or take Natchez Trolley @ 50 cents per ride from Lady Luck to Franklin Street. Get off near Brothers Restaurant, one block from auditorium.

Friday, June 4

12:15 and 1 p.m. Public luncheon at historic Magnolia Hall, 215 South Pearl Street, hosted by Co-Lin and NLC. Walk or take your car from auditorium. Please go at the time indicated on your luncheon ticket.

5:30 p.m. Private reception and dinner, Cock of the Walk Restaurant on Broadway Street, hosted by Co-Lin and the NLC. Take your own car. You can leave it and walk to the auditorium for the concert at 7 p.m.

7 p.m. Public pops concert by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, auditorium.

Saturday, June 5

12 noon. Private luncheon at Brothers Restaurant, 209 Franklin Street, hosted by Co-Lin and the NLC. You can walk from the auditorium.

3:30-5:30 p.m. Public tour of historic riverfront buildings on Broadway Street: The Parsonage, Rosalie, Evans-Bontura, Train Station. You can walk from the auditorium.

5-7 p.m. Private reception and dinner at The House on Ellicott Hill, hosted by Co-Lin and Mississippi Valley Food Service. You can walk from the auditorium.

7 p.m. Ferris/Clower presentations at auditorium, followed by reception at Choctaw, next door to the auditorium, hosted by Co-Lin and NLC.

1993 part 2
page 53



The Natchez Literary Celebration

Sponsored by
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
and
The National Park Service
• Natchez Trace Parkway
• Natchez National Historical Park

June 1, 1993

Post Office Box 894
Natchez, MS 39121-0894
(601) 442-9111
(601) 442-7047
FAX (601) 446-9967

To: Lecturers and other VIPs, the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration

From: Carolyn Vance Smith, Co-chairman

Re: Details for the week

First of all, welcome to Natchez! We're so glad you're here! I'd like to tell certain information pertinent to this week's activities.

1. If your presentation requires visual aid, please make an appointment with Becky Junkin Nevill, co-chairman of the NLC. Her phone number is 442-4944 at home. She has experts ready to meet with you.

In order for slide images to project large enough for the audience to enjoy them, we're using a special rear-projection slide projector. This means slides must be loaded a certain way. You'll want to rehearse your presentation so that images will reflect on the screen correctly.

Possible times to rehearse are Wednesday morning, late Wednesday afternoon, the lunch hour on Thursday and Friday, and between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday.

2. To get to the Natchez Municipal Auditorium and other locations this week, please walk if you're close enough or use your own car. A private 25-passenger van will be available at certain times at the auditorium to take you places. One of these times is Wednesday at 4:15 p.m. for the Mississippi Queen reception; another is Thursday evening for the reception at Ramada Hilltop Inn and dinner afterwards onboard the Lady Luck.

3. On Thursday from 6:15-7:15 p.m., the van will take VIPs from the auditorium to the Ramada reception. It will pick up VIPs at the Ramada at 7:45 p.m. and go to Lady Luck. The van will pick up at Lady Luck at 10 p.m. and go to the auditorium for VIPs to pick up their cars.

NOTE: If you prefer to use your own car that evening, parking is available at Ramada and at the Lady Luck parking lot. A shuttle from the Lady Luck parking lot goes to the boat.

If you prefer to use public transportation, the Lady Luck van is free. It goes on a loop from Lady Luck up to Canal Street, north on Canal Street past the auditorium to High Street, west on High to Broadway Street, south on Broadway, and back Under the Hill. It makes stops along the way. Also available is the public trolley at 50 cents per ride, which makes 10 stops along a loop downtown. One block from the auditorium is a stop, near Brothers Restaurant on Franklin Street.

1993 part 2
page 54

page 2

4. Be aware that Natchez is fully booked this weekend. Natchez police will patrol the auditorium area regularly, and we have hired extra security for the auditorium area. Just remember you're in a resort area with gambling (!).

5. Feel free to call on your local liaison if you need help. This person will be checking with you after you arrive. Of course call Becky Nevill at 442-4944 or me at 445-5955 if you need us.

6. If you're staying at a hotel, please sign the breakfast ticket and your room number. Your room and breakfast will be paid for by NLC. If you charge anything else to your room, please pay upon checkout. Thank you.

7. Please wear your nametag to all events. It serves as your admission ticket. Also take to the three receptions your tickets, which you may exchange for free beverages.

8. You'll be interested to know that Dr. Robert V. Remini, the beloved historian at the University of Illinois who was to have been an NLC lecturer again this year, is recovering nicely from emergency surgery May 25 in Chicago. Dr. Douglas Inglis graciously agreed to take the opening on the agenda June 3 at 10 a.m.

9. We hope you enjoy the homemade pralines in your room!

1993 part 2
page 55



The Natchez Literary Celebration

Sponsored by
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
and
The National Park Service
•Natchez Trace Parkway
•Natchez National Historical Park

Post Office Box 894
Natchez, MS 39121-0894
(601) 442-9111
(601) 442-7047
FAX (601) 446-9967

For Immediate Release

by Pat Cater

What does Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, one of the world's leading authorities on Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn, have in common with Mississippi's nationally known yarn spinner, Jerry Clower?

Why, Ol' Man River and the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, of course!

This award-winning conference, held annually in the historic river city of Natchez, Miss., is set for June 2-6, 1993. Theme is "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River."

Sixteen noted authors, scholars and entertainers will be featured during the conference, which is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the Natchez National Historical Park. It is partially funded by the Mississippi Arts Commission and the Mississippi Humanities Council of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

At the conference, Fishkin, visiting professor at Cambridge University, Cambridge, England, will discuss her newly released theory, "Was Huck Really Black?"

Clower, of Liberty, Miss., known for his colorful tales of life along the Mississippi River, will present "Stories from Home."

"Jerry Clower is so popular that I suggest everyone get tickets

1993 part 2
page 56

early," said Stuart Johnson, superintendent of the Natchez National Historical Park. Johnson is co-chairman of the celebration with Becky Junkin Nevill and Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln.

One returning presenter is Dr. Robert V. Remini of the University of Illinois, whose lecture topic is "The Mississippi River, Aaron Burr and Conspiracy."

Other speakers and their topics are:

- * John Hoesterey, Denver, Colo., chairman of the National Park Service's Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Project, "The Heritage of the Mississippi River."
- * Dr. William S. Coker, University of West Florida, "Spaniards, Frenchmen, and Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1519-1763."
- * Dr. Charles Lowery, Mississippi State University, "Language Without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy, and Tall Tales on the Mississippi."
- * Dr. David G. Sansing, The University of Mississippi, "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez."
- * Terrence Winschel, National Park Service historian of Vicksburg, "Unvexed to the Sea: The Mississippi River During the Civil War."
- * Natchez historian Dr. Thomas H. Gandy, "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mud, Water, Boats and Steam."
- * The author Willie Morris of Jackson, "Rivers in My Life."
- * Dr. Peggy W. Prenshaw, Louisiana State University, "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart."
- * The author Elizabeth Spencer, The University of North Carolina,

"Port Claiborne near the River."

* The poet Hillery Jacques Knight III, Tougaloo (Miss.) College, "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation."

* The author Ernest Gaines, The University of Southwestern Louisiana, "Of Men and Rivers."

* Dr. Charles G. Vahkamp, Centre College, Danville, Ky., discussing the films "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" and "Good Ol' Boy."

* Dr. William Ferris, The University of Mississippi, "Storytelling Along the River Road."

"In addition to lectures and presentations will be a number of spectacular river-related events," Nevill said.

These include special meals; tours of four houses near the river, Rosalie, The Parsonage, the William Johnson House and Evans-Bontura; music by the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra, the Holy Family Gospel Choir and the River Road Revue; a two-day re-enactment of the Union occupation of Natchez, 1863-65; art and photography exhibits; a film festival of river-related movies; and the premiere of "Return to the River," a Mississippi Educational Television documentary.

Cost of lectures is \$20 for four days or \$5 per day, with meals and special events optional at low cost, Smith said. The entire package for all lectures, meals, tours and special events is \$95. "Tickets will be available by calling Natchez Box Office at (601) 445-0353 or 1-800-862-3259, or by writing P.O. Box 1264, Natchez, MS 39121."

The Miss-Lou

Literary

Continued from Page 1A

Department of Archives and History, Wednesday through Sunday.

■ "The Natchez Trace," an exhibit at City Auditorium by the Natchez Trace Parkway, Wednesday through Sunday.

■ "The Historic Natchez Collection," an exhibit of reproduction furniture and accessories at the Historic Natchez Foundation on South Commerce Street, Wednesday through Sunday.

■ "Afro-American Life in Natchez," an exhibit at the Natchez Afro-American Museum by the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture, Thursday.

■ Living history enactment of the Union Army's occupation of Natchez, 1863-65, on the grounds of Melrose, Saturday and Sunday.

■ An all-day workshop on Archival material from Seville, Spain, about Spanish Natchez, led by Dr. Douglas Inglis of Seville, an expert on Spanish Natchez. The workshop will be today at the Judge George W. Armstrong Public Library.

■ A free public reception honoring the poet Hillery Jacques Knight III of Tougaloo College and former Gov. William Winter of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History will be from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday at the museum of the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture.

■ "And three free movies will be shown and discussed during the celebration," Smith said. "They are 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn' at 3:15 p.m. Thursday; 'Good Old Boy' at 3:15 p.m. Friday; and 'The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman' at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. Discussion after the films will be led by Dr. Charles Vahlkamp of Centre College in Danville, Ky." The films will be shown at the City Auditorium.

The lectures will be, in Wednesday and continue through Saturday at the auditorium. "All oral presentations except for the Clower presentation are open on a space-available basis, with all tickets costing \$5," Smith said. "Lectures are financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council."

Lectures are as follows:

■ "The Heritage of the Mississippi River," by John Hoestery, leader of the Mississippi River Heritage Corridor Project of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Wednesday, 1:15 p.m.

■ "Spaniards, Frenchmen and the Englishmen on the Mississippi River, 1519-1763," by Dr. William S. Coker, professor of history emeritus at the University of West Florida in Pensacola, Wednesday, 2:45 p.m.

■ "Language without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy and Tall Tales in the Early Days on the Mississippi," by Dr. Charles Lowery, chairman of the department of history at Mississippi State University, Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

■ "Administering Spanish Natchez: An 18th-Century River Town," by Dr. Douglas Inglis of



Hoestery



Prensaw



Coker



Morris



Vahlkamp



Spencer



Holly



Lowery



Ferris



Winschel



Gaines



Fishkin



Gandy



Winter



Knight



Clower

Seville, Spain, Thursday, 10 a.m. Inglis is an expert on Spanish Natchez.

■ "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez," by Dr. David G. Sansing, professor of history at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Thursday, 11:15 a.m.

■ "The Mississippi River and the Civil War," by Terrence Winschel, historian with the Vicksburg National Military Park, Thursday, 2 p.m.

■ "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," the movie, with discussion led by Dr. Charles G. Vahlkamp, professor of American Film Studies at Centre College in Danville, Ky., Thursday, 3:15 p.m.

■ "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mud, Water, Boats and Steam," by Dr. Thomas H. Gandy, author and historian of Natchez, Friday, 8:30 a.m.

■ "Was Huck Black? Mark

Twain and African-American Voices," by Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, visiting fellow at Cambridge University in Cambridge, England, Friday, 10 a.m.

■ "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation," by Hillery Jacques Knight III, associate professor of English at Tougaloo College, Friday, 11 a.m.

■ "The Rivers in My Life," by Willie Morris, Mississippi author, Friday, 2 p.m.

■ "Good Ol' Boy," a movie based on a Willie Morris book, with a discussion led by Dr. Vahlkamp, Friday, 3:15 p.m.

■ "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart," by Dr. Peggy W. Prensaw, professor of English at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Saturday, 8:30 a.m.

■ "Poet Claiborne: A Reading with Commentary," by Elizabeth Spencer, writer-in-residence at the University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill, Saturday, 9:15 a.m. ■ "Of Men and Rivers," by Ernest Gaines, writer-in-residence at University of Southwestern Louisiana at Lafayette, Saturday, 10:45 a.m.

■ "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman," a movie based on the Ernest Gaines novel with a discussion led by Dr. Vahlkamp.

Tickets for all events are available at Natchez Box Office, P.O. Box 1264 in Natchez. The telephone number at Natchez Box Office is 445-0353.

The Natchez Democrat

TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 1993

Serving Natchez, Vidalia and the Miss-Low

Natchez, Miss.

50 CENTS

Readin', 'Ritin' and the River highlight annual literary festival

Lectures, concerts, free events
included in activities this week

■ *Related column, 4A.*
By STACY GRANING
The Natchez Democrat

Storyteller Jerry Clower will headline Saturday's activities as part of the fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration.

The event, which draws scholars and literary fans from throughout the world to Natchez, begins Wednesday and continues through Sunday.

"Jerry Clower is America's top humorist and he's from Liberty," said Carolyn Vance Smith, co-chairman of the annual festival. "He will perform at the Natchez City Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Saturday, and tickets are only \$7.50 each."

Smith represents Copiah-Lincoln Community College, which co-sponsors the annual festival with the Natchez National Historical Park. Co-chairmen are Becky Nevill of Co-Lin and Gerry Gaumer of the park.

The theme for this year's festival is "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin' and the 'River.'" The celebration will include many lectures, tours, entertainments, concerts, meals and special events saluting the Mississippi River and its influence on literature, history and culture of Natchez and the Lower Mississippi River Valley.

"Tickets for the celebration are \$5 per day for lec-

tures at the Natchez City Auditorium," Smith said. "Tickets for other activities range from \$5 to \$15, and all are available at Natchez Box Office or at the door."

In addition to Clower's performance, conference participants will include a pops concert by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra at 7 p.m. Friday. "The concert will be entitled 'Music of the Mississippi and Other Rivers,' and tickets are only \$5," Smith said.

A "Riverfront Tour of Buildings" will take place from 3:30 to 6 p.m. on Saturday. "Buildings on tour are The Parsonage, Rosalie, Evans-Bontura and the Train Station," Smith said. "And refreshments will be served." Tickets for the tour are \$15 each.

"Also, a public reception honoring outstanding humanities students and faculty members in Mississippi's community colleges will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday on the terrace at the Ramada Hilltop Inn," Smith said. "Music will be by the Great River Road Revue, and tickets are \$5 each."

In addition to the ticketed events, the festival will offer several free activities, including:

■ "Faces and Phases of the River," a guided walking tour along the Natchez bluff by national park rangers, June Wednesday through Friday.

■ "The Mighty Mississippi," an exhibit of winning entries in a regional art contest at Judge George W. Armstrong Library, Wednesday through Sunday.

■ "Steamboating in Style," a photograph exhibit at Historic Jefferson College by the Mississippi

See LITERARY, Page 8A

1993 part 2
page 60

A new angle on literary fest

The rich African-American heritage of the Natchez area during the 19th and 20th centuries will be a major part of the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration. The event's theme is "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River."

All of us at the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture urge everyone to attend this annual event, which is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the Natchez National Historical Park.

The celebration's dates are Wednesday through Saturday, with all lectures at the Natchez City Auditorium.

Ways African-Americans are involved with the celebration are as follows:

■ Several serve with me on the celebration's steering committee, along with co-chairmen Gerry Gausner of the Historical Park and Becky Nevill and Carolyn Vance Smith of Co-Lin.

They include Josie-Gilchrist Anderson, vice president of NAFAC; William Trench of the Bluff City Post; and Bettye Mullein, director of student support services at Co-Lin.

■ Natchez's own Hilary Jacque Knight III, a professor of English and a published poet from Tougaloo College, will be one of several African-Americans in the spotlight. His mother, the late Ordeense Knight, is highly regarded as one of Natchez's outstanding educators.

Mr. Knight will read from his poetry, which was influenced by the river, and comment on it.



Top of the Morning

MARY TOLES
Natchez resident

His presentation is set for 11 a.m. Friday.

■ Another African-American prominent in the conference is the author Ernest Gaines of Owsen, La., near Natchez, who is famous for his novel, "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman." Mr. Gaines will present his program at 10:45 a.m. on Saturday.

■ Also on the program is Dr. Shelly Fisher Fiskin of Cambridge University, England. She is the author of a brand-new book, "Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices," which explores the influence of African-Americans on Twain's fiction.

■ Also of interest to African-Americans is a program on Elizabeth T. Goenfield, a slave born in Natchez who rose to fame as a soprano. Billed as "The Black Swan," in 1853 Goenfield gave a command performance for Queen Victoria in London.

At 11:15 a.m. Thursday, Dr. David Sauting of The University of Mississippi will discuss the Black Swan. Dr. Ernestine Holly, soprano of Jackson State University, will sing selections presented by the Black Swan in London in

1853.

■ In conjunction with the lectures, NAFAC will hold an open house June 3 at the NAFAC Museum on Market Street.

From 4:30 to 6 p.m., that day will be general access. Then, from 6 to 7 p.m., we will host a reception open to the public. This reception will honor Hilary Knight and former Gov. William Winter, who is master of ceremonies for the celebration. We invite everyone to attend.

■ Presenting a concert after dinner at the Carriage House Restaurant on Wednesday will be additional African-Americans. They are Alvin Shelby and the Holy Family Catholic Church Gospel Choir.

■ Serving as lecture chairmen for the conference are still other African-Americans. They are Dr. Frances Henderson, director of Alcorn State University's Division of Nursing in Natchez; Theodore "Bubba" West, Natchez alderman; Dr. Alferdeen Harrison, professor of history at Jackson State University; and myself.

Tickets for the celebration are just \$5 per day for lectures and movies. Meals, receptions, a house tour, a pops concert by the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and a performance by storyteller Jerry Clower on Saturday are low cost.

All tickets are available from Natchez Box Office, 445-4353, or 1-800-862-3259. See you there.

Judge Mary Toles is president of the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American History.

Natchez's Spanish Records Return Home

The Natchez Historical Society
George W. Armstrong Public Library
Copiah-Lincoln Community College
National Park Service's

Natchez Trace Parkway and Natchez National Historical Park
in Cooperation with the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration

present

Free Workshop

(ADVANCE RESERVATION REQUIRED)

"THE COLONIAL NACHEZ DATABASE PROJECT"

Tuesday, June 1, 1993

9 a.m. - 6 p.m., George W. Armstrong Public Library
220 South Commerce Street, Natchez

During the period Natchez was under Spain's rule, 1779 - 1798, extensive records were kept by local Spanish officials. These records, which reveal much about early Natchez, eventually ended up in the Archivo General de Indias in Seville, Spain.

Dr. G. Douglas Inglis, a history major and computer expert who lives in Seville, has spent several years researching the records, which are contained in a vast number of uncataloged and unreferenced volumes.

Now he has accessed the information he has compiled onto a computer program. Dr. Inglis is bringing the program to Natchez and will install it in the computer system at the George W. Armstrong Public Library. Dr. Inglis plans to continue his research in Seville, compiling more of the Spanish Natchez records and making them available to Natchez.

Workshop Schedule

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.: | Spanish Imperial organization and structure
Spanish Natchez documentation
The Colonial Natchez Database: What it is and what it can do for you |
| 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.: | Free time for lunch |
| 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.: | Using The Colonial Natchez Database
Hands-on experience
Present coverage and future growth |

. . .

Dr. G. Douglas Inglis, a lecturer at the 1992 Natchez Literary Celebration, is Director of the Department of Systems Engineering - Southern Region, Siemens Nixdorf Sistemas de Informacion, Seville, Spain.

A history major, Dr. Inglis received his B.A. from William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and his M.A. from The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg. Dr. Inglis' master's thesis was "Anthony Hutchins: Early Natchez Planter." He earned his Ph. D. from Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, in Latin American history with minors in early modern Europe and colonial United States history. His summers are often spent as a visiting lecturer at colleges and universities in the United States and in Spain.

For Reservations

Contact Ms. Donna Janky, Armstrong Public Library
601-445-8862



Dr. G. Douglas Inglis

1993 part 2
page 62

Southwest Miss.

Electric Power Association

Readin', Ritin', and the River...

Natchez event celebrates river's literary heritage

What does Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, one of the world's leading authorities on Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*, have in common with Mississippi's nationally known yarn spinner, Jerry Clower?

Why, Ol' Man River and the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, of course!

The annual award-winning conference is June 2-6 in Natchez. The conference theme is "The Three R's: Readin', Ritin', and the River."

Sixteen noted authors, scholars and entertainers will be featured during the conference, sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the Natchez National Historical Park. It is partially funded by the Mississippi Arts Commission and the Mississippi Humanities Council of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Speakers and their topics range from Dr. Fishkin's newly released theory, "Was



Huck Really Black?" to Jerry Clower's "Stories from Home."

Clower will appear June 5 at 7 p.m. at the Natchez Municipal Auditorium.



A re-enactment of the Federal occupation of Natchez during the Civil War will take place June 5-6 as part of the fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration. Batteries of Union artillery, such as the one shown here, will join people portraying civilians and paroled Confederate soldiers. The free event will take place on the grounds of historic Melrose all day both days.

1993 part 2
page 63



The Natchez Democrat

OPINION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1993

Editorials

Literary event offers treat for everyone

Natchez welcomes dignitaries and other guests today as they arrive for the annual Literary Celebration which gets under way a little past lunchtime.

The four-day event, with interesting seminars both at the beginning and at the end of the lecture series, will focus on something we Natchez-area people think we know well — the Mississippi River.

However, with its theme of "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River," the celebration will offer information, entertainment and scholarly thought that most of us never have pondered.

The event is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the Natchez National Historical Park and the Natchez Trace Parkway. Tickets to the lectures and other events are reasonably priced, and one look at the lineup of speakers reveals something for every taste, from movies to folk humor to highbrow investigation of literary themes.

The celebration is one of the many events throughout the year that help to make Natchez a special place to live and to visit. It is an opportunity people in many other small towns would envy.

Take a look at the schedule and mark your calendars for the coming few days. Get out and enjoy the Natchez Literary Celebration.

1993 part 2
page 64

THE 1993 NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

an award-winning annual extravaganza

presents

THE THREE R'S: READING, 'RITING', AND THE RIVER

Wednesday-Sunday, June 2-6, 1993

NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI

- * Lectures and other presentations about the literature, history, and culture of the Lower Mississippi River by 15 internationally known authors, scholars, and entertainers including Dr. Robert V. Remini, Elizabeth Spencer, Willie Morris, Dr. William Ferris, Ernest Gaines, Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Dr. William S. Coker, and Jerry Clower
- * Tours of historic riverside homes and sites
- * A mini film festival of river-related movies
- * Exhibits, music, storytelling, and entertainments
- * Re-enactment of the Union occupation of Natchez during the Civil War
- * Special meals, parties, and fun

All on the irresistible theme of

OL' MAN RIVER!

.....
For information, Write

Natchez Literary Celebration, P.O. Box 894, Natchez, MS 39121
.....

LOW COST

EDUCATIONAL

PRESTIGIOUS

53

Published by the Southeastern Conference on English in the Two-Year College



SCETC
Journal

Spring 1993
Volume XXVI, Number 1

1993 part 2
page 65

**The Three R's: Readin',
Ritin', and the River:
Natchez Literary Celebration
June 2-6**

The river and its influence on the literature, history, and culture of Natchez and the lower Mississippi River valley will be the subject of the fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration June 2-6. Co-chairs Becky Junkin Nevill and Carolyn Vance Smith announce a program featuring distinguished historians, writers, and special events, such as the premiere of MAFTV's documentary, "Return to the River." Among historians scheduled are Robert V. Remini, University of Illinois; William S. Coker, University of West Florida; and Shelby Fisher Fishkin, Cambridge University. Writers present will include Elizabeth Spencer, Ernest Gaines, Will D. Campbell, and Willie Morris. Director of Proceedings for the Celebration will be the Honorable William F. Winter, president, Board of Trustees, Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Writing workshops, films, special meals, symphonic music programs, receptions, exhibits, and reenactments are also offered. The event is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park and the Natchez Trace Parkway. For ticket information contact the Natchez Box Office, P.O. Box 1264, Natchez, MS 39121-1264.

1993 part 2
page 66

**The Three R's:
Readin', 'Ritin', and
the River**

**Natchez, Mississippi
June 2-6, 1993**

The fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration features lectures, tours, entertainments, concerts, meals, and special events saluting the influence of Ol' Man River on the literature, history, and culture of Natchez and the lower Mississippi River Valley.

The event is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and the National Park Service's Natchez National Historical Park and the Natchez Trace Parkway. Lectures are financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council. The Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra concert is supported in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission.

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS,
PLEASE CALL
NATCHEZ BOX OFFICE AT
(601)445-0353 OR 1-800-862-3259**



DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
P.O. Box 571 JACKSON, MS 39205-0571



TRINITY TALES

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



305 S. COMMERCE NATCHEZ, MS 39120 601 - 445-8432

Mail: P. O. Box 1323 Natchez, MS 39121-1323

The Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray, Jr., Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Alfred C. Marble, Jr., Bishop Coadjutor
The Rev. Barry E. Allen, Jr., Rector
The Rev. Dr. Eugene E. Kohlbeck, Assistant
Vincent B. Beebe, III, Organist/Choirmaster

Woodrow W. Allen, Senior Warden
V. Jack Stephens, Junior Warden
Philip E. Carby, Clerk
John T. Green, Chancellor

The Natchez Democrat

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1993

Year-long planning rewarded, literary celebration official says

■ Teachers, students honored, 3A
By JOAN GANDY
The Natchez Democrat

A year of planning paid off when the fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration opened on Wednesday, a co-chairman of the event said.

"Organization and a lot of hard work" led to a successful day at Natchez's City Auditorium, said Becky Junkin Nevill of Copiah-Lincoln Community College, who chairs the annual event along with Carolyn Vance Smith, also of Colin, and Gerald Gaumer of the Natchez National Historical Park.

Nevill stood in the foyer of the Jefferson Street auditorium on Wednesday, alert to greeting seminar guests as they came into the building.

As the second lecturer of the day wound up his speech, other volunteers milled about the lobby, waiting to usher participants to seats inside the auditorium and keeping



Dr. William S. Coker

coffee hot and homemade cookies spread on plates for intermission.

The crowd of several hundred listened attentively as Dr. William S. Coker of the University of West Florida charted numerous expedi-

tions made by Spanish, French and English explorers on the Mississippi River between 1519 and 1763.

Coker wove into the lecture stories of men whose names now are legend in early Mississippi history — DeSoto, LaSalle, Marquette and Joliet — and equally well known places, such as English Turn, where in 1699 Frenchmen under Bienville met an English galley and bluffed the British soldiers into turning around by saying France already had established a settlement upriver.

Seeking Mexican silver mines or passages to the Orient, early explorers in nearly every instance drove their little bands in search of some economic reward, Coker said.

Louis Joliet and Father Jacques Marquette pushed down the Mississippi from Canada despite warnings of "demons on the river

See PLANNING, Page 3A

Planning

Continued from Page 1A

that would devour them," Coker said. "They were told even the heat might kill them."

Controversies and conflicts followed the Europeans as they explored the Mississippi until at last in 1810 the United States gained control of both sides of the river, he said.

Coker, like other lecturers, fashioned his program from the literary celebration's theme, "The Three R's: Readin', 'Riting' and the River."

Preceding Coker was John W. Hoesterey, who described a program that would establish a Mississippi River National Heritage Corridor. Hoestery is a geographer with the National Park Service and directs the heritage corridor project.

Following Coker's presentation, Dr. Olon Ray introduced "Return to

the River," a Mississippi Educational Television documentary featuring Southern writers, musicians and scholars. Ray is chairman of the board for the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television.

More lectures continue at the auditorium today, beginning with Dr. Charles Lowery of Mississippi State University at 8:30 a.m. Lowery's topic is "Language without Inhibition: Hyperbole, Fantasy and Tall Tales on the Mississippi."

At 10 a.m. today Dr. G. Douglas Inglis of Seville, Spain, will deliver his lecture, "Administering Spanish Natchez: A Late 18th-Century Town."

Dr. David Sansing of the University of Mississippi will present, "From the Mississippi River to the River Thames: The Black Swan of Natchez," at 11:15 a.m.

At 2 p.m., Terrence Winschel of the National Park Service will present, "The Mississippi River and the Civil War."

1993 part 2
page 68

"THE BLACK SWAN" IN CONCERT

FEATURING DR. ELLISTINE P. HOLLY

PROGRAM OF MUSIC

"If Sleeping Now Fair Maid of Love" Francis (Frank) Johnson
(1792-1844)

"Make Me No Gaudy Chaplet" Donizetti Calcott
(1797-1848)

"Every Doubt and Danger Over" William Henry Fry
from *Leonora* (1813-1864)

"Home! Sweet Home!" Henry R. Bishop
from *The Maid of Milan* (1786-1855)



The Natchez Literary Celebration

presents a continuation of

FROM THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TO THE RIVER THAMES

THE BLACK SWAN OF NATCHEZ

an after-luncheon mini-concert

1:00 p.m., Thursday, June 3, 1993

The Natchez Eola Hotel

featuring

Dr. Ellistine P. Holly, Soprano

Associate Professor of Music

Jackson State University

Jackson, Mississippi

with

Ms. Sandra Polanski, Pianist

Chairman, Music Department

Academic and Performing Arts Complex

Jackson, Mississippi

Presiding

The Honorable William F. Winter

President, Board of Trustees

Mississippi Department of Archives

and History, Jackson

Remarks

Dr. David G. Sansing

Professor of History

The University of Mississippi, Oxford

Introduction of Dr. Holly

Dr. Frances C. Henderson

Director, Alcorn State University

Division of Nursing, Natchez

1993 part 2
page 69

The Miss-Lou

Humanities students win honors

Outstanding students and faculty members in the humanities division of a dozen community colleges in Mississippi were honored at the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration.

"We are very happy to put these outstanding people in the spotlight this year," said Dean Travis Thornton of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

Faculty and student honorees also were the guests of honor at a public reception Thursday.

Honorees and their colleges are:

■ Lola C. Holloway and Pamela L. Green, Coahoma Community College, Clarksdale;

■ Jarrett Rodriguez, Co-Lin Natchez;

■ Nancy Dykes and Mendez Goldman, Co-Lin, Wesson;

■ Ovid Vickers and Jennifer Leigh Anderson, East Central Community College, Decatur;

■ Betty R. Killebrew, East Mississippi Community College, Scooba;

■ Sheila McGraw, Holmes Community College, Ridgeland;

■ Dr. Ken Bishop, Itawamba Community College, Fulton;

■ Shanda Farrior, Jones County Junior College, Ellisville;

■ Rosemary G. Wright and Paul J. Corroero Jr., Mississippi Delta Community College, Moorhead;

■ Walter Mullen, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Gautier;

■ Sara Patten and Richard Gregg Wheat, Pearl River Community College, Poplarville;

■ Belinda Jones and Heide McKenzie, Southwest Mississippi Community College, Summit.

The Natchez Democrat

1993 part 2
page 71

The Natchez Democrat

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1993

Serving Natchez, Vidalia and the Miss-Low

Natchez, Miss.

50 cents

Musicians to tip hats to Mississippi River

Tunes from "Showboat," a movie filmed partly in Natchez, will be featured in an hour-long pops concert in Natchez Friday night. The movie is based on a book by the same name by Edna Ferber.

The concert, called "Music of the Mississippi and Other Rivers," will take place at 7 p.m. Friday at the Natchez City Auditorium.

The concert is part of the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, which is using the theme, "The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River."

Tickets for the concert are \$5, available from Natchez Box Office, 445-0353, or at the door.

Conducting the 37-piece orchestra will be Robert M. McNally of Jackson.

"Showboat" tunes to be per-

formed include "Old Man River," McNally said.

"Other selections feature the Mississippi River, the Shenandoah River and other rivers of the world," McNally said. "Everything we've chosen for the concert has a nostalgic theme, something connected to rivers or river cities."

Selections in addition to "Showboat" include "Out of Africa" Love Theme by John Barry, "New York/Chicago," "Moon River" by Henry Mancini, "Under the Sea," "The Watermill" by Binge, "Shenandoah," "Mardi Gras" from "Mississippi Suite" by Ferde Grofe and "New Orleans Medley."

"The program will end with everybody's favorite 'Stars and Stripes' by John Philip Sousa," McNally said.

The celebration continues

Today's Natchez Literary Celebration lecture lineup continues, with the first program scheduled for 8:30 a.m. at Natchez's City Auditorium. Here is the schedule:

■ "The Mississippi River and Steamboats: Mud, Water, Boats and Steam," by Dr. Thomas H. Gandy, author and historian of Natchez, 8:30 a.m.

■ "Was Huck Black? Mark Twain and African-American Voices," by Dr. Shelley Fisher Fishkin, visiting fellow at Cam-

bridge University in Cambridge, England, 10 a.m.

■ "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation," by Hillery Jacque Knight III, associate professor of English at Tougaloo College, 11 a.m.

■ "The Rivers in My Life," by Willie Morris, Mississippi author, 2 p.m.

■ "Good Ol' Boy," a movie based on a Willie Morris book, with a discussion led by Dr. Charles Vahlkamp of Centre College in Danville, Ky., 3:15 p.m.

1993 part 2
page 72



The 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration

"The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River"

presents

MUSIC OF THE MISSISSIPPI AND OTHER RIVERS

A POPS CONCERT

BY THE MISSISSIPPI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Robert M. McNally, Conductor

The Natchez Municipal Auditorium

Natchez, Mississippi

7 p.m., Friday, June 4, 1993

PROGRAM

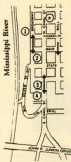
Selections from <i>Showboat</i>	Jerome Kern
<i>Out of Africa</i> Love Theme	John Barry, arr. James Sclater
"New York/Chicago"	arr. James Sclater
"Moon River"	Henry Mancini
"Under the Sea"	arr. James Sclater
"The Watermill"	Binge
"Shenandoah"	arr. Harris
"Mardi Gras" from <i>Mississippi Suite</i>	Ferde Grote
"New Orleans Medley"	anonymous
"Stars and Stripes"	John Philip Sousa

This concert is financially assisted by the Mississippi Arts Commission.

1993 part 2
page 73

A Walking Tour of Historic Structures Near the River

- ① Broadway Street Train Station, 200 North Broadway Street
 - ② Evans-Bontara, 107 South Broadway Street
 - ③ The Parsonage, 305 South Broadway Street
 - ④ Rosalie, 100 Orleans Street
- ⊙ NLC Headquarters: Natchez Municipal Auditorium,
207 Jefferson Street



The 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration
"The Three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and the River"

Presents

A Walking Tour

of

Historic Structures Near the River
Along Broadway Street

(With Refreshments)

3:30 - 6:00 p.m., Saturday, June 5, 1993

NOTE: Tour begins at any of the tour sites.

1993 part 2
page 74

The Natchez Democrat

Storyteller Clower headlines literary festival activities today

Storyteller Jerry Clower will headline today's activities as part of the fourth annual Natchez Literary Celebration.

"Jerry Clower is America's top humorist," said Carolyn Vance Smith, co-chairman of the annual festival. "He will perform at the Natchez City Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Saturday, and tickets are only \$7.50 each."

Smith represents Copiah-Lincoln Community College, which co-sponsors the annual festival with the Natchez National Historical Park. Co-chairmen are Becky Justin Nevill, also of Coplin, and Gerry Ganser of the park.

The theme for this year's festival is "The Three R's: Reading, 'Rite' and the 'River'." The celebration, which concludes with a special writing workshop on Sunday, ends its lecture series today.

"Tickets for the celebration are \$5 per day for lectures at the Natchez City Auditorium," Smith said. "Tickets are still available at the door for today's lectures."

A "Riverfront Tour of Buildings" also will take place today, from 9:30 to 4 p.m. "Buildings on tour are The Parsonage, Basilica, Evans-Bentley and the Train Station," Smith said. "And refresh-



Jerry Clower

ments will be served." Tickets for the tour are \$15 each.

Events offered through Sunday include:

- "The Mighty Mississippi," an exhibit of winning entries in a regional art contest at Judge George W. Armstrong Library.

- "Steamboating in Style," a photograph exhibit at Hiram College by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

- "The Natchez Traces," an

See CLOWER, Page 8A

'Mouth of the South' shares favorite tales

Some call him the Mouth of the South. Others call him the silliest, funniest man in America. Still others call him just plain Jerry.

He's Southwest Mississippi's own Jerry Clower, a native of Amite County who has been Country Comedian of the Year for nine consecutive years and has written fourteen-selling books of humorous stories.

"It is very appropriate for Jerry Clower to be included in this conference," said Dr. William Ferris, director of The Center for the Study of Southern Culture at The University of Mississippi.

"Storytelling and folklore and oral history are extremely important parts of the rich background of the South, and in particular, of Mississippi," Ferris said. "Nobody tells stories better than Jerry Clower."

Following the show, Ferris, Clower and a dozen other Natchez Literary Celebration lecturers will be honored at an informal reception at historic Cloutier, which has recently undergone an extensive renovation.

1993
SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1993

1993 part 2
page 75

Clower

Continued from Page 1A

exhibit at City Auditorium by the Natchez Trace Parkway.

■ "The Historic Natchez Collection," an exhibit of reproduction furniture and accessories at the Historic Natchez Foundation on South Commerce Street.

■ Living history enactment of the Union Army's occupation of

Natchez, 1863-65, on the grounds of Melrose, today and Sunday.

■ "And another free movie will be shown and discussed today," Smith said. "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" will be shown at 1:30 p.m. today, with a discussion afterwards led by Dr. Charles Vahlkamp of Centre College in Danville, Ky."

Lectures scheduled today are:

■ "Elizabeth Spencer's Landscapes of the Heart," by Dr. Peggy

W. Prenshaw, professor of English at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, 8:30 a.m.

■ "Port Claiborne: A Reading with Commentary," by Elizabeth Spencer, writer-in-residence at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 9:15 a.m.

■ "Of Men and Rivers," by Ernest Gaines, writer-in-residence at University of Southwestern Louisiana at Lafayette, 10:45 a.m.

1993 part 2
page 76

TODAY

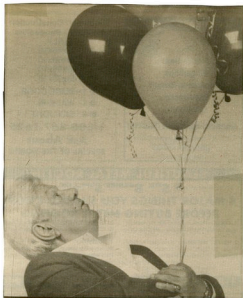
IN MISSISSIPPI

Vol. 46, No. 6

News for Southwest Mississippi Electric Power Association members

June 1993

1993 part 2
page 77



Renowned Mississippi comedian Jerry Clower will present "Stories from Home" as the grand finale of the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration. See Clower at 7 p.m. June 5 at the Natchez Municipal Auditorium. Tickets are \$7.50 and are available from the Natchez Box Office, (601) 445-0353.

"Jerry Clower is so popular that I suggest everyone get tickets early," says Stuart Johnson, superintendent of the Natchez National Historical Park. Johnson is co-chair of the celebration with Becky Jurkin Neville and Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln.

A sampling of speakers and topics at the conference include:

- The author Willie Morris of Jackson, "Rivers in My Life."
- The author Elizabeth Spencer, The University of North Carolina, "Poet Claiborne Near the River."
- The poet Hillery Jacques Knight III, Tougaloo College, "The Romance of Poetry and the River's Invitation."
- Dr. William Ferris, The University of Mississippi, "Storytelling Along the River

Road."

- Dr. Charles G. Vahlkamp, Centre College, Danville, Ky., discussing the films "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" and "Good 'Ol Boy."

In addition to lectures and presentations will be a number of river-related events. These include special meals, tours of homes near the river, music by the Mississippi Symphony Pops Orchestra, the Holy Family Gospel Choir and the River Road Revue, a two-day re-enactment of the Union occupation of Natchez (1863-65), an exhibit and film festival.

Cost of lectures is \$20 for four days or \$5 per day, with meals and special events optional at low cost. For tickets, call the Natchez Box Office at (601) 445-0353 or 1-800-862-3259.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following donors have helped make possible "Storytelling Along the River Road" and other segments of the 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration.

Adams County Board of Supervisors

A&P

Julius George W. Anselm Library

Ansley Gallery

Bancroft Paper Co., Inc./

Base Western River Park Road

F. R. Blankenship Company

Bluff City Distributors

Candy's Frame Shop

Dr. Charles Bonum

Benton & Kenna First National Bank

Callan Penicook Company

The City of Natchez

Concordia Parish Library

The Confederation Program Committee

Copiah-Lenoir Community College

Cox-Williams Tobacco Co., Inc.

Marjorie Fry Davis

Delta Queen Steamboat Company

Deposit Guaranty National Bank

Don's Frame Shop

Eastern National Park and Monuments Area

Edenforest

Fox 43 TV

The Great River Road Route

Herring Day Company

Historic Houses of Natchez: Choctaw, Davidson, Evans

Reimers, Governor Holmes House, The Gaze House

Historic Mound, High Point, Hope Farm, The House on

Elmore Hill, Magnolia Hill, Magnolia Hill, Mt. Morgan

Cottage, Monroe, The Parsonage, Pleasant Hill, Roush,

Sheldon Town House, Stanton Hall, Sweet Olive Tree

Museum, Tinsdale, White Wings

Historic Natchez Foundation

Intervall, of Paper Foundation

Kaiser Food Store

Lady Luck Natchez

Marlow Bookshop

Mississippi Arts Commission

Mississippi Authority for Educational Television

Mississippi Department of Archives and

History Mississippi Humanities Council

Mississippi Power & Light

Mississippi Valley Food Service

Murray Printing

Mississippi Writers Association

Natchez Adams Chamber of Commerce

Natchez Afro-American Museum

Natchez Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc.

Natchez Commission and Visitor Bureau

The Natchez Democrat

The Natchez Dispatch

The Natchez Film Festival

Natchez Garden Club

Natchez Historical Society

Natchez Mall Cinema IV

Natchez Market/Piggly Wiggly

Natchez National Historical Park

Natchez Rotary Club

Natchez Trace Parkway

Donald Ogden, Attorney

Pilgrimage Garden Club

South-Central Bell

Tracy, Smith, Latham and Kuehler, Attorneys

United Mississippi Bank

WMBS-WTVZ

WNLS-WGND

The 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration

presents

STORYTELLING ALONG THE RIVER ROAD

featuring

DR. WILLIAM FERRIS

and

MR. JERRY CLOWER

Natchez Municipal Auditorium

Natchez, Mississippi

7 p.m., Saturday, June 5, 1993

This event is financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council, Natchez Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Inc., Deposit Guaranty National Bank, and other donors.



DEPOSIT GUARANTY NATIONAL BANK

takes great pleasure

in helping present

THE 1993 NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

and, in particular,

MR. JERRY CLOWER OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI

who is a member of the

Advisory Board

Deposit Guaranty National Bank

McComb, Mississippi



Following the Program

OPEN HOUSE ON THE RIVER ROAD

A Reception Honoring All NLC Speakers, with Refreshments

The Historic Mansion Choctaw

Next Door to the Auditorium

(Open House tickets are \$2.50 in the auditorium lobby.)

1993 part 2
page 78



1993 Natchez Literary Celebration

CHOCTAW

RECEPTION

HONORING
8:15 P. M.
SATURDAY
JUNE 5, 1993

ALL LECTURERS
Please present this
portion of ticket for
free beverage.



Choctaw

Choctaw is one of the South's most impressive antebellum mansions.

The residence was built in 1836 for Joseph Neibert and his family. James Hardie, a Scottish immigrant and local architect, is believed to be its builder. Joseph Neibert died several months after he was financially devastated by The Panic of 1837. In 1844, Neibert's widow sold the property to Alvarez Fisk, a local philanthropist who was instrumental in establishing the Natchez public school system.

The mansion was purchased in 1855 by attorney George Malin Davis, who developed the terraced gardens. Choctaw remained in the Davis family until 1920, and from 1909 to 1915 it was known as Stanton College, a school for young ladies (begun in 1894 at Stanton Hall). In 1920 it was sold to The Natchez Manufacturing Company by Davis' grandson, George Malin Davis Kelly, who owned and lived at Melrose. In 1937 the City of Natchez purchased the property as the site for a city auditorium. During the city's ownership, Choctaw was occupied for many years by the American Legion and later by the Natchez Art Association.

The grandeur and splendor of Choctaw were always apparent, even through decades of severe deterioration in the early part of the 20th century and damage by fire in 1978.

When Mr. and Mrs. Don DePriest purchased Choctaw in 1989, they faced the monumental task of undertaking its restoration. Repairs included structural damage caused by a leaking internal gutter system. Also, earlier problems created by a 1940's restoration project had to be handled.

Through the DePriests' restoration efforts and the watchful eye of their restoration specialist, James O. Moore, Choctaw once again stands as testimony to the opulence of Natchez' antebellum era and to the artistry of the craftsmen who built it.

Choctaw is probably Natchez's first "transition" house, students of historical architecture agree, in that it uses both the Greek Revival style and the earlier Federal style found at Rosalie. The doorway and interior millwork are Greek, while the Ionic columns of the portico are Roman. The tympanic window in the gable of the portico takes its oval shape from the Federal style. The mansion is constructed of stately red brick with a stuccoed facade and graceful columns.

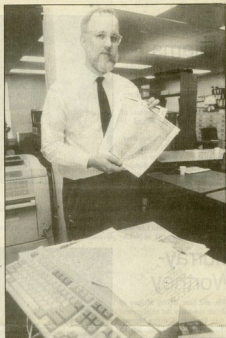
On the interior, folding doors separate the short front hall from the two front rooms. In the wider back hall, the stairs follow a curved wall to form a graceful oval as they rise to the second floor and then to the finished attic room. The house also contains a full basement.

A replica of the original palisaded fence curves in a delicate pattern away from the house. Restoration of the formal gardens is under way, based on plans from an 1864 "Map of the Defenses of Natchez."

Painstaking research, effort, and patience have gone into this meticulous restoration project, which has received the Mississippi Historical Society's Award of Merit for restoration and the Historic Natchez Foundation's George M. D. and Ethel Moore Kelly Restoration Award. Presently a search is under way for rare interior furnishings and fixtures which are appropriate to the mansion.



1993 part 2
page 79



The Natchez Democrat/Thom Scott

SPANISH RECORDS: Dr. Douglas Inglis holds records of the first spanish fort that was on the bluff, Pan Mure Fort. He spoke at a genealogy workshop held at Judge George W. Armstrong Library and showed the extensive records kept by the local Spanish officials from 1779-1798. These records were entered into a database for the library and will be available to researchers.

Breithaupt named to Who's Who

■ Bridget Jewel Breithaupt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy W. Breithaupt and student at Copiah-Lincoln Community College, has been selected as one of the country's most outstanding campus leaders by the Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges editorial staff.

She will be included in the 1993 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges, an annual directory of outstanding students first published in 1934.

Oertling receives JD

■ Margaret S. Oertling of Natchez received the juris doctor degree from the School of Law at Washington and Lee University.

Oertling was among 138 students receiving their law degrees during commencement activities held on

the university's historic front campus.

Starks wins national award

■ The United States Achievement Academy announced today that Kentrell A. Starks has been named a U.S. National Award winner in student council.

This award is a prestigious honor few students receive. In fact, the academy recognizes less than 10 percent of all American high school students.

Starks is the son of Marilyn Starks and Willie Tell. His grandparents are Emma Tell of Shelby and Pauline Starks of Fayette.

Local completes degree

■ Peter Dale, a Delta State University senior from Natchez, recently completed two semesters of Social Work Field Placement as part of his degree requirements.

1993 part 2
page 80

1993 NLC RECEIVES HIGH PRAISE

The 1993 Natchez Literary Celebration, sponsored by Co-Lin and the National Park Service June 2-6, has received high praise from many of those attending.

"The Literary Celebration is a truly remarkable event," wrote Elbert R. Hilliard, director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. "Co-Lin is to be commended for having originated and successfully implemented this magnificent program."

Also praising the event was Dean Travis Thornton of Co-Lin. "I thought it was well received," he said. "I enjoyed it. I was sorry I missed some of it because I was involved in summer school registration.

"It's tremendous that as small as we are we can be diversified enough to do several things simultaneously. It's a tribute to the faculty and staff, for it took a lot of extra effort on many people's part," he said.

"We always appreciate the help and contributions of people outside the college (for the NLC). They provided housing for the speakers, were ushers and helped in numerous ways.

"In many respects it was a total community effort -- which it takes to do something of this magnitude."

Total numbers of those attending the conference have not been tallied, but officials say well over 2,000 people attended all or part of the conference.

"Several hundred people attended the firing demonstrations held in conjunction with the Civil War re-enactment at Melrose, and more than 400 toured the mansion itself," said NLC co-chairman Gerry Gaumer of the Natchez National Historical Park. "There is no way to know how many more just visited the site and the re-enactors.

"Add those attending the lectures, the concert, the Jerry Clower performance, the Spanish archives workshop, the writing workshop and the four-house tour, as well as those participating in the art contest, the exhibits and the walking tours, and you've got more than 2,000 individuals who were reached by the Literary Celebration," he said. "We are very pleased with attendance this year."

OVER

1993 part 2
page 81



COPIAH-LINCOLN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WESSON, MISSISSIPPI 39191

Office of the President

June 9, 1993

Mr. Burton B. Hosch, Jr.
President-Natchez
Deposit Guaranty National Bank
PO Box 847
Natchez, MS 39121-0847

Dear B.B.:

I would be remiss if I did not write to express our appreciation to you and your staff for the outstanding support you gave Co-Lin during the recent Natchez Literary Celebration. We especially appreciated the opportunity to use your facilities Saturday for the board of trustees' meeting.

We thank you for your help as a sponsor and the many other things you continue to do in support of the college. Please convey our thanks to the employees at Deposit Guaranty who so willingly helped during the week.

Of course, we look forward to your participation again next year.

Sincerely yours,


Dr. Billy B. Thames
President

cc: Dr. J. H. Stribling
Mr. Travis Thornton
Mrs. Carolyn Smith ✓

The Place to Be.

1993 part 2
page 82

Morris captures crowd's attention with new book

By Robin Miller
Staff reporter

NATCHEZ, Miss. — For Willie Morris, it was a trip back in time, Mississippi, 1942.

For those listening, it was like going back to second grade. A time when spring afternoons were priceless treasures because the teacher set aside time to read aloud.

Perhaps about Mississippi, 1942.

The teachers were good, but this was better.

The Mississippi author just can't be matched when reading from his own work — especially when that work is close to his heart.

Morris was a featured speaker last week at the Natchez Literary Celebration. His lecture, "The Rivers of My Life," coincided with celebration theme "The Three R's: Rivers, 'Rit'n and the River."

But it was excerpts from his new book, *New York Days*, that caught the crowd's attention.

A sequel

New York Days is a sequel to Morris' 1967 autobiographical book, *Norfolk Yearning Home*.

The first story was written when Morris sat at the helm of Harper's magazine in New York. Morris talked of the South and growing up in Yazoo City, Miss.

He looks at life in New York in his new book.

"The first book was about

the South from a Southerner's point of view," Morris said after the presentation. "This book is more of a look at the North from a Southerner's point of view."

A throng of people, armed with copies of Morris' novel *Good Old Boy*, patiently waited as the author talked. Each had a story to tell him.

Some knew him from way back when. His stories reminded others of their child hood homes.

Waited for introduction

Then there were those who just wanted to get to know him — just to say they spent a few seconds with Willie Morris.

Who could blame them?

This was a man who, at 34, was the youngest editor-in-chief of Harper's, America's oldest magazine. He transformed it into one of the most controversial and distinguished magazines in the country.

Morris' tenure saw the publishing of the first detailed account of the Vietnam massacre at My Lai. Harper's also carried Norman Mailer's prize-winning piece, "On the Steps of the Pottenger."

The young editor knew everyone from writers and poets to homicide detectives and politicians to actresses and athletes.

I dined with Sinatra, sat next to DiMaggio in the Garden, danced with Scarlett O'Hara's younger sister and



Robin Miller — Staff reporter

Mississippi author Willie Morris signs a copy of his children's book, *Good Old Boy* at the Natchez Literary Celebration. Morris'

new book, *New York Days* will be released in August.

Scott Fitzgerald's only daughter," he read from a passage in *New York Days*.

He even gave Leonard Bernstein a pen stating, "I'm a yellow-dog Democrat." The pen was a gift from a politician back home.

Bernstein asked Morris the meaning behind the term, and Morris offered his grandmother's definition: "I'd vote for a yellow dog before I'd vote for a Republican."

Despite it all, Morris has managed to bypass what would seem to be an inevitable air of snobbery. It doesn't matter that he hobnobbed with the elite, he's still a Mississippian at heart — people are just people to him, and he likes talking to all.

A reporter for the Memphis Commercial Appeal probably best described Morris in a recent article.

"Anyone who knows Willie

Morris, a painfully honest writer who has somehow managed to be one-part Southern good ol' boy and one-part citizen of New York, also knows that his life has been a roller-coaster ride of ups and downs," he wrote. "And at no time have the ups been steeper or the downs drazier than during the New York years."

■ Please see MORRIS, C-8

Willie Morris — a Southern gentleman

By Robin Miller
Staff reporter

Some people think of great writing upon mention of Willie Morris' name.

Others think of his past as editor-in-chief of Harper's magazine.

I think, "Southern gentleman."

Morris was recently a featured lecturer at the Natchez Literary Celebration. "Readin' 'Rit'n and the River," I rode over for his presentation, but I had talked with him before. It was four years ago.

Morris was working in McCormick, Miss., and Morris was in town for the book signing.

The book was *Good Old Boy*

Commentary

and the *Witch of Yazoo*, sequel to his popular 1974 children's novel, *Good Old Boy*.

He developed the idea for the sequel while staying with a friend in Mississippi's Pike County. He was working on still another novel *Taps* when it all began.

Rumor had it that satanic cult activity was widespread in the area. The scare turned out to be a hoax, but not before hysteria swept the county.

Morris, himself a celebrated practical joker, immediately

saw fictional possibilities in the situation. The result was *Good Old Boy* and the *Witch of Yazoo*.

The resulting book signing was to be a dress up affair — a big reception.

My plans that day were to interview him before the signing, then leave.

I was nervous, after all — this was the Willie Morris.

This was the same person who, at 34, was the youngest editor-in-chief of Harper's — the man who changed the country's oldest magazine into one of the most controversial and distinguished publications of the day.

He rubbed shoulders with

top writers, poets, intellectuals, actors, actresses, athletes and politicians.

He was writer-in-residence at the University of Mississippi, and author of numerous novels.

So, I was in awe, and I was nervous. Why would he want to talk with me, a kid from a small-town daily newspaper?

I figured we'd talk a few minutes, then he'd politely excuse himself and turn his attention to the book signing.

I was wrong. I discovered the true meaning of Southern gentility.

Morris was sitting at a fancy table when I entered Norma Wilkison,

owner of W.T. Books in McCormick, introduced us.

Morris had already spotted me and stood up — like Southern gentlemen do in old movies when a lady enters the room.

He didn't sit down until I was sitting. I immediately felt at ease.

Morris had set the scene — I was his guest.

My interview was first. He told me of childhood, pranks he played on his aunts in Yazoo City and how he came about developing the idea for the book.

"A writer's greatest ally is

■ See GENTLEMAN, C-8